FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-082
Thursday
28 April 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-082 *28 April 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form. DAILY REPORT volume 081 was not published.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Shahaq Doubts Talks To Be Concluded 'This Week' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Further on Shahaq Remarks *[MENA]* 1
Sha'th Views Talks With Israel, 'Arafat's Visit *[MENA]* 1
Al-Tibi: Agreement Depends on Prisoners' Release *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 2
Liaison Committee To Meet; Disputes Detailed *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Israeli Sources Assail Palestinian Procrastination *[DAVAR 27 Apr]* 3
Palestinian, Israeli Delegations Resume Talks 3
All Issues Not Expected To Be Resolved *[MENA]* 3
Sha'th Vows Talks To Continue Unabated *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
Sha'th: Talks Reach Final Drafting Phase *[MENA]* 4
Agreement Said Reached on Detainees *[MENA]* 4
Session of Talks Concludes *[MENA]* 5
Rabinovich: No More 'Tempting Proposals' for Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Israel Demands Meeting Between Peres, Al-Shar' *['AL HAMISHMAR 27 Apr]* 6

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Justice Ministers Council Holds Session 6
Plan on Extremism, Violence Discussed *[MENA]* 6
Algerian Minister Speaks on Terrorism *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Iraqi Minister Urges Help Against Sanctions *[INA]* 7
AMU Official on Summit, Libyan Lockerbie Crisis *[MENA]* 7
Committee Ends Session in Algiers *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Arab League Issues Statement on Israeli Measures *[MENA]* 8
Unemployment, Illiteracy in Arab States Reported *[AFP]* 8

Islamic Affairs

Former Soviet Muslim Students Interviewed *['AQIDATI 29 Mar]* 9

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Calls Leadership Meeting on Agreement *[MENA]* 11
'Arafat, Egyptian Envoy Discuss Talks, Cairo Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 11
PLO To Seek Christopher's Help in Self-Rule Deal *[AFP]* 11
Al-Husayni Comments on Security in Gaza, Jericho *[MENA]* 12
PLO Official: Deportees To Return From Jordan *[AL-RA'Y 27 Apr]* 12
Executive Member Urges 'Escalation' of Confrontation *[London AL-HAYAH 24 Apr]* 12
PFLP-GC Leader Announces Split, Forms New Command *[Jerusalem International]* 12
Signatories to Anti-'Arafat Memorandum Named *[AL-QUDS 26 Apr]* 13
'Arafat Reportedly To Meet Hamas Leaders in Jordan *[AL-ITTIHAD 22 Apr]* 13
'Arafat Allegedly Offers Hamas Gaza Municipality *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 26 Apr]* 13
Hamas Statement Stresses Claim to Palestinian Land *[AL-SABIL 26 Apr-2 May]* 14
Hamas Threatens Attacks If Prisoners Not Released *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Israel Said Planning To Assassinate Hamas Leaders *[AL-SHA'B 22 Apr]* 15
Official: Fatah-Hamas 'Basic Differences' Continue *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 15
Britain To Construct Power Station in Territories *[AL-QUDS 26 Apr]* 15

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Officials 16

Speaks at News Conference *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Dembri Interviewed on Ties With Kuwait *[KUNA]* 16
Joint Statement Issued *[Kuwait Radio]* 16
Algerian-Libyan Committee on Cooperation Meets *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Envoy Cited on Madrid Talks on Sahara *[MAP]* 17
Foreign Minister Views Maghreb Economic Ties *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Economic Workshop Attended by Government Officials 18
Sifi Comments on Government Plan *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Workshop Makes Recommendations *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Security Forces 'Eliminate' 12 'Terrorists' *[Algiers TV]* 18
Student Killed, Doctor Wounded in 'Terrorist' Attacks *[Algiers Radio]* 18

Egypt

Musa Confirms 'Arafat, Peres, Christopher To Visit *[MENA]* 18
Commentary Previews Christopher's Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Reportage on Christopher, 'Arafat, Peres Visits 19
Foreign Minister Welcomes Christopher *[MENA]* 19
'Arafat Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 20
Christopher, Musa, 'Arafat Confer *[MENA]* 20
Christopher, 'Arafat News Conference *[MENA]* 21
Mubarak Meets With 'Arafat *[MENA]* 21
Peres, Delegation Arrive *[MENA]* 21
Musa Comments on Peres Meeting *[MENA]* 21
Musa, Peres on Signing of Agreement *[MENA]* 22
'Arafat Greets Mubarak on Sinai Liberation Day *[Cairo Radio]* 22
U.S. Urged Not To Confront Russia Over Bosnia *[MENA]* 22
Columnist Views Proposed Halt in U.S. Aid *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 22 Apr]* 22
Mubarak Approached by Yemeni Leaders 23
Receives Phone Call From Salih *[MENA]* 23
Warns Against Confrontation *[MENA]* 23
Sends Envoy To Reconcile Parties *[MENA]* 23
Libyan Justice Minister Meets With Sidqi *[Tripoli TV]* 23
Opposition Party Leaders Issue Statement on Dialogue *[AL-WAFD 22 Apr]* 23
Islamic Group Vows To Kill Mubarak *[AFP]* 24
'Abd-al-Rahman, Others Sentenced to Hard Labor *[MENA]* 24

Morocco

Results of Parliamentary, Local By-Elections *[Rabat TV]* 25
Iraqi Envoy Concludes Visit *[MAP]* 26

Sudan

Minister Reacts to U.S. Embassy Statement on Rights *[SUNA]* 26
Statement Issued on Abduction of Ambassador to Somalia *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
Foreign Minister Meets With British Envoy *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
Minister Discusses Peace Talks With Kenyan Envoy *[Omdurman Radio]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Christopher Meets With GCC Leaders in Riyadh *[KUNA]* 27

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Calls From Yemen's Salih, al-Bid *[WAKH]* 27

Yemen

1st Armored Division Reportedly Launches Offensive 27
Salih's Stepbrother Said To Lead Attack *[MENA]* 27
U.S., French Attaches Fired On in Camp *[MENA]* 27
Military Committee on Camp 'Incident' *[MENA]* 28
Military Committee Issues Communique *[Sanaa Radio]* 28
Defense Ministry: Units Moving Toward 'Imran *[MENA]* 29
'Scores' Reportedly Killed, Wounded *[Sanaa Radio]* 29
Army Units Reportedly Resume Battles *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 30

Number of Killed, Wounded Reported *[AFP]* 30
Salih Confers with U.S., French Envoys on Incident *[Sanaa Radio]* 30
Salih, al-Bid Receive Messages From Mubarak *[MENA]* 30
Salih Address on Elections Day Rally Reported *[Sanaa Radio]* 31
Further on Salih Speech *[Sanaa Radio]* 31
Salih Visits Wounded Minister in Hospital *[Sanaa Radio]* 32

IRAQ

Talks With UN Commission End; Statement Issued *[INA]* 33
Commentary Views Ekeus' Remarks *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Barzani Party Denies Conditions for Damascus Visit *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 34
Talabani Comments on Ties With Israel, Regime *[AL-SAFIR 21 Apr]* 34
PKK Fighters Cut Power in al-Jazirah *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 36

ISRAEL

Peres on Golan Withdrawal, Peace With Syria *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
Peres on Upcoming Cairo Talks, Syrian Track *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Peres: Palestinian Autonomy Practically 'Independence' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Talks' Progress Permits Peres, Sarid To Visit Cairo *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Rabin Returns From Official Visit to Russia *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Advance Team Leaves for Qatar To Prepare Arms Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Knesset Defeats Bill To Fortify Golan Law *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
More on Defeat of Golan Bill *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 39
Opposition Parties Submit 3 Motions of No Confidence *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Kakh, Kahana Hay Announce Merger *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
Baraq Says PLO, Hamas Possess Similar Aims *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Over 150 Hamas Activists Detained in Janin Area *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
IDF General Meets Senior Gaza Hamas Official *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
General: Syria Buying Scud Missiles in North Korea *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Arabs Carrying Classified Information Seek Asylum *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 28 Apr]* 41
Claims of U.S. Spy Operations Reported *[AFP]* 41
Settler Receives Life for Murdering 'Terrorist' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
'Terrorist' Shot, Curfew Imposed After Stabbing Bid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41

JORDAN

Queen Mother al-Sharaf Passes Away in Lausanne 42
King Brings Queen Mother's Body Home *[Amman TV]* 42
Court Announces 40-Day Mourning Period *[Amman Radio]* 42
'Thousands,' Foreign Dignitaries Attend Funeral 42
Country Pays Last Respects *[Amman Radio]* 42
Iraqi Envoy Arrives *[Amman Radio]* 42
PLO Delegation Extends Condolences *[Amman TV]* 42
Syrian President Received *[Amman Radio]* 43
King Receives Condolences on Queen Mother's Death 43
King Fahd Cables Condolences *[Amman Radio]* 43
Habash, Others Cable Condolences *[Amman Radio]* 43
Crown Prince Hasan on Peace Process, Trade *[AL-SHA'B 22 Apr]* 43
Minister Comments on U.S. Agreement on al-'Aqabah *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Apr]* 44
Sources Claim 90 Hamas Members, Supporters Arrested *[AL-BILAD 27 Apr]* 45
Sources Say Amman Hotel Fire 'Premeditated' *[AL-QABAS 15 Apr]* 45
Chinese Parliamentary Delegation Meets With Officials 45
Holds Talks With Senate Speaker *[Amman TV]* 45
Received by Prime Minister *[Amman TV]* 46
Meets With House Speaker *[Amman Radio]* 46

LEBANON

Defense Minister Interviewed on Iraq, Israel *[KUNA]* 47
Foreign Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Hostages *[IRNA]* 47
Ja'ja' Questioned; Sources Cited on Other Cases *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Invitation to Cairo Multilateral Talks Received *[Beirut Radio]* 48

Hizballah, Other Parties Criticize Government *[AL-'AHD 15 Apr]* 48
SLA Positions Hit by Artillery Bombardment *[Voice of the South]* 49
Israeli Air Raids, Shelling Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 49

SYRIA

Russian Ministers Pay Visits, Sign Agreements 50
Economic, Trade Talks Held *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Soskovets Visits Power Station *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Defense Minister Receives Soskovets *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Prime Minister Receives Russian Ministers *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Al-Asad Receives Soskovets *[Damascus TV]* 50
Military Agreement Signed *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Foreign Minister Receives Russian President's Envoy *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Russian Parliamentarian Meets With Assembly Speaker *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Confers With Ba'th Party Official *[SANA]* 51

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Deputy Defense Minister on Army, Military Successes *[Kabul Radio]* 52
UN Delegation Concludes 3-Week Tour *[IRNA]* 52
'Outlaw' Mullah Reportedly Named Zabul Governor *[THE MUSLIM 27 Apr]* 53

India

Secret Talks With U.S. on Disarmament Denied *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Spokesman Outlines Agenda for Rao's U.S. Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Legislators Support Increased Defense Spending *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Neighboring Country Seen Involved in Bombay Blasts *[Delhi TV]* 54
Pakistani Plans for Elections in Kashmir Viewed *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Islamabad Reports Attacks, 'Brutalities' in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 54
Seven Soldiers Reportedly Killed *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Textiles Constitute 35 Percent of Exports *[Delhi TV]* 54
Government Approves German, U.S. Joint Ventures *[Delhi Radio]* 55

Iran

Velayati Comments on Bosnian Situation in New York 55
Views ICO, UN Efforts *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Criticizes Security Council *[IRNA]* 55
Speaker Nateq-Nuri Views Situation in Bosnia 56
Notes Readiness To Assist Muslims *[IRNA]* 56
Calls For End to Arms Embargo *[IRNA]* 56
Corps Announces Readiness to Defend Bosnians *[IRNA]* 56
Students Rally in Support of Bosnian Muslims *[IRNA]* 56
Paper Urges Pilgrims To Raise Bosnia Issue in Hajj *[IRNA]* 57
Education Minister Comments on Impeachment *[IRNA]* 57
Nateq-Nuri Rejects Impeachment *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Missile Maneuvers Begin in Strait of Hormuz *[IRNA]* 57
Commander Says Navy To Procure Third Submarine *[IRNA]* 58
Canadian Envoy Apologizes for 'Inappropriate Conduct' *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Ruhani, Cuban Envoy Discuss Relations *[IRNA]* 58
Fisheries Cooperation Agreement Signed With Ireland *[Tehran TV]* 58
MKO Radio Reportedly Hails Assassination Attempt *[IRNA]* 58

Pakistan

President Receives Iraqi Speaker, Pledges Support *[INA]* 59
Bhutto Invites Sharif To Attend RSA Inauguration *[Islamabad International]* 59
Spokesman Notes Concern at Indian Troops in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 59
Leghari Confers With Former Afghan President *[Islamabad TV]* 59
Military To Cooperate With Turkmenistan *[Islamabad TV]* 60

Arab-Israeli Talks

Shahaq Doubts Talks To Be Concluded 'This Week'

TA2604115494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by Moti Amir in Cairo]

[Text] A news conference with Major General Amnon Shahaq ended a few minutes ago. The bottom line of what Gen. Shahaq had to say is that he is not sure the Cairo negotiations will be completed this week.

[Begin recording] [Shahaq] I do not think that the negotiations will be completed this week. Progress is definitely being made because we work around the clock. We meet and things are being settled, but there is still work to be done. There is no cardinal issue on which there are differences, but there are many issues for which there are still no answers and with which we are currently dealing—some of which can become difficult to resolve and therefore important.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are there issues that will be finalized after the agreement is signed?

[Shahaq] There will be issues that will be resolved after the signing, and agreement must be reached on that as well. If that happens, those issues will be put off and work on them will continue immediately after the signing. [end recording]

Gen. Shahaq noted that he does know about any Peres-'Arafat meeting in Cairo at the end of the week and refused to say which issues remain controversial. He merely said that there are no substantive disputes but that the small print must also be negotiated. Asked what these issues are, he said:

[Begin Shahaq recording] I do not think it is significant, even for you, because you are not sitting with a list and checking off the issues. We have almost completed the deliberations on civilian issues, but even that is not totally accurate. Last week I mentioned passports, dialing zones, stamps, and currency as issues on which agreement has not yet been reached. There are also other issues on which we are still deliberating. Some of the security issues have also been completed, but I think it is pointless and irrelevant for most people to become involved in the niceties. All the issues have to be resolved. We referred earlier to the issue of crossings and safe passage [last two words in English]. The gaps on those issues are very, very small, and I think they will also be settled this week. I think that when the week ends, we will provide a list of all the issues completed this week. [end recording]

On the agreement reached between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, Gen. Shahaq stressed that Israel will not accept agreements between the two organizations that permit Hamas to continue attacking Israel.

[Begin Shahaq recording] As long as meetings between Fatah and Hamas are devoted to resolving conflicts between them and to the problems of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, they do not constitute a problem for us. If, however, they are meant to provide a distribution of labor between Fatah, which will abide by the agreement, and Hamas, which will take actions not permitted in the agreement, that is not only unacceptable but will not happen and will have an impact on the talks. I think that is clear. We were told that this is not what took place and will also not take place in the future. [end recording]

Further on Shahaq Remarks

NC2604130794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, has said that the negotiators have completed 50 percent of an agreement.

In a news conference at noon today, Shahaq said the Israeli delegation would stay in Cairo until Thursday. If no agreement on all the points has been reached by then, he said, another round of negotiations will be held.

Shahaq said he has no information about a meeting in Cairo among Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Sha'th Views Talks With Israel, 'Arafat's Visit

NC2604173294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, has stated that the Palestinian and Israeli teams will go back to their leaders for consultations on the subjects that have been talked about and then meet once again to prepare the final version of the agreement for implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Speaking at a news conference today, Sha'th said that it is not possible now to set a final date for signing the agreement, although the two sides are trying to deal with the issues left from last week and want to finalize the negotiations by the end of the week, if possible. The Palestinian official added: We are working day and night to get it over with as soon as possible.

Dr. Sha'th stated that 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo tomorrow evening and will meet with President Husni Mubarak on Thursday morning. He added that 'Arafat will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Dr. Sha'th noted that he will represent President 'Arafat at a small ceremony to be held at Cairo Airport in the presence of Musa and Christopher to mark the arrival of the first group of Palestinian police vehicles donated by the United States to the Palestinians. There are 200 vehicles, he added. He pointed out that the remaining vehicles will arrive at Port Said within two weeks, noting that the first group, which will be transported by air, will be available for use by the Palestinian police once the agreement for implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord is signed.

Dr. Sha'th expressed the hope that during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Egypt beginning tomorrow the two sides will finalize all parts of the agreement, except for two or three items that will be endorsed by President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Sha'th welcomed any effort made by the U.S. secretary of state during his tour, saying: We welcome the role of the U.S. cosponsor in promoting the negotiations.

Asked whether President 'Arafat will meet with the Israeli Foreign Minister in Cairo, Dr. Sha'th said he did not know if Peres will arrive in Cairo some time after tomorrow. If Peres does arrive, he might meet with 'Arafat. However, such a meeting has not been confirmed.

Dr. Sha'th said the two sides are working to find solutions, clarify all matters, sign the agreement, and work out any pending details. He said: We do not want to divulge the details of the progress in the negotiations now. Perhaps all details will be announced in two days. He added: We are trying our best to finish the negotiations.

Dr. Sha'th indicated that he is "optimistic" by nature. However, this is a very difficult process in which the Palestinians are seeking justice.

Regarding the date the Palestinian police will enter Gaza and Jericho, Dr. Sha'th said that some forces will begin their duties after the signing of the agreement and that 6,000 Palestinian policemen will be deployed in the two areas one week after the signing.

On the meeting between PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Chief Israeli Negotiator Gen. Amnon Shahaq, Dr. Sha'th said the two sides reviewed the course of the negotiations before Abu-Mazin left for Tunis today. He added that Abu-Mazin could return to Cairo tomorrow with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Dr. Sha'th said that a team of legal experts will revise the items of the agreement in light of the Palestinian documents next week. The team consists of Dr. George Sealam [name as received], a U.S. professor of international law, and Dr. Mufid Shihab and Dr. Salah 'Amir, two Egyptian professors of international law.

On the criticism by [former chief Palestinian negotiator] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi of the current negotiations, Dr. Sha'th said the PLO welcomes objective opposition within the democratic framework serving the Palestinian people's cause. He added: We respect Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi and appreciate his view. What we are doing now is only a small step on a long road to achieving our goals.

Al-Tibi: Agreement Depends on Prisoners' Release

TA2604192994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Aharon Barne'a video report from Cairo]

[Excerpts] There will be no agreement between the PLO and Israel unless a timetable is determined for the release of all Palestinian prisoners, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. This was said today by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's adviser. It was reported in Cairo today that the delegations will continue their meetings next week. The date for the signing of the agreement has still not been determined.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Al-Tibi] Without an agreed-upon timetable for the release of all the Palestinian prisoners there will be no agreement.

[Barne'a] Are you referring to all the prisoners, including Hamas people?

[Al-Tibi] All the prisoners are Palestinians, and the PLO is the legitimate leadership of the entire Palestinian people, therefore it is responsible for all prisoners, regardless of their affiliation. [end recording]

Liaison Committee To Meet; Disputes Detailed

LD2604181594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Sources described as informed have said that the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, which is chaired by brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, will meet next Thursday [28 April] if the current dispute over a number of issues before the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations persists. Each side is insisting on its stance vis-a-vis a number of fundamental issues.

Palestinian sources have said that the Israeli side in the negotiations is insisting on its position regarding the topic of travel documents that the self-rule authority will provide to the Palestinian citizens. They are insisting on writing State of Israel on the cover while the Palestinian side stresses that this is unacceptable because it deprives the self rule of all authority.

The other fundamental point of contention is the subjugation of the coasts of Gaza to an Israeli authority, especially in the Khan Yunis area.

Regarding passage between Jericho and Gaza, the Israeli position has retracted in the new round of negotiations, expressing reservations over the passage linking the two areas. The Israeli side is proposing to make the link by air in order to avoid accidents in the future. The Israeli side also refuses to grant the right of the self-ruling authority to issue postage stamps under the pretext that what is being negotiated is a transitional self rule, while the travel document and the stamps represent manifestations of a state. [passage omitted]

Israeli Sources Assail Palestinian Procrastination

TA2704113394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] Senior sources in the Israeli peace delegation yesterday sharply criticized the Palestinians for delaying the arrival of their representatives in the territories. These representatives are supposed to prepare the arrival of the Palestinian police and the transfer of civilian powers from the Civil Administration to the Palestinian autonomy authorities.

The Israeli sources said that "the fact that the Palestinians are not sending their people to Gaza and Jericho prior to the signing of the agreement could harm their ability to assume responsibility for these areas after it is signed." The sources claim that this issue has been raised many times during the talks, but to date the Palestinians did nothing about it.

According to Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, some 6,000 Palestinian policemen will arrive in the autonomous areas 12 hours after the agreement is signed.

Sources in the Palestinian delegation yesterday confirmed that the issue was raised many times. They expressed understanding for the Israeli concern, but added that it has still not been decided who will serve in what post and therefore they have difficulties in starting operations on the ground.

The Palestinian sources added, however, that in the last few meetings it has been agreed that the Palestinian policemen will arrive in the autonomy a short time after the signing of the agreement. They will arrive with their arms and other military equipment and enter the Palestinian police bases. It was also decided that as long as the IDF does not transfer the responsibility to the Palestinian police, the policemen will travel unarmed in the autonomous areas in order to avoid mishaps.

Palestinian, Israeli Delegations Resume Talks

All Issues Not Expected To Be Resolved

NC2704113794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to implement autonomy in Gaza and Jericho resumed today. The Palestinian side is led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat while the Israeli side is headed by Deputy Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahaq.

Knowledgeable Palestinian sources have told MENA that the Legal and Security Affairs Committees will try today to reach an agreement over a number of issues still under dispute. The same sources pointed out that progress was achieved on several topics during the round that started on Sunday, 24 April. This includes the two sides' agreement over the corridor between Gaza and Jericho and the provision of permits—valid for one year—to cars that use this corridor. This step, the sources added, will facilitate contact between the two autonomous regions—Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian sources said that agreement was also reached on a Palestinian presence in a place called al-Mawasi in al-Shati' area, Gaza Strip, where Israel had previously rejected any Palestinian presence.

The sources said progress was made on the question of legal jurisdiction over the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, so that foreigners will be subject to Palestinian authority, as will the prosecution of suspects in security and criminal cases there. The sources affirmed that agreement was reached on instituting joint patrols on parallel roads linking the Israeli settlements, especially in Gaza.

The sources explained that despite the progress made in this round, it is not expected that all the issues will be resolved during this round. The sources said the release of Palestinian detainees; some points on control over the crossings between Gaza, Egypt, Jericho, and Jordan; and control over the crossing points on the green line separating Israel and the West Bank are still outstanding.

Therefore, another round is likely to be held next week to discuss the remaining unresolved issues. The next round is expected to be the last.

Sha'th Vows Talks To Continue Unabated

TA2704150594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The PLO and Israeli delegations will continue the discussions until an agreement is signed between the two parties. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will leave for Cairo tomorrow to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports from Cairo:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The negotiations between the PLO and Israeli delegations in Cairo will continue unabated until the Gaza-Jericho First agreement is signed. This piece of news was revealed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th a short while ago. Sha'th said that the negotiations were making rapid progress. A written document noting down all the agreements on civilian issues was presented for the first time today. Work continues on the documents, or rather on the thick pamphlets, pertaining to security and legal issues. The main differences still revolve around issues of jurisdiction.

As for the issue of Palestinian prisoners, Dr. Nabil Sha'th asserted that progress had been made, noting that in general, he could no longer describe any issues as problematic. Sha'th sketched out the problems the delegations would have to confront in future.

[Sha'th, in English] The Israeli delegation for the first time will remain here all through this weekend. We are also going to remain here. We are at the stage of final drafting and final redrafting, therefore it is difficult to say when. We are working every day till the day of signing from now on.

[Segal translates above remarks and continues] When the correspondents became insistent, Sha'th smiled apologetically and said that since he had come under criticism for being overly optimistic, he would not specify a date for signing the agreement until the actual invitations to the signing ceremony had been printed. Sha'th also confirmed that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres would arrive in Cairo tomorrow morning. Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said that Peres would meet tomorrow afternoon with President Husni Mubarak, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who is arriving in Egypt this evening.

Minister Shulamit Aloni is also in Cairo and receives occasional updates on the negotiations. Minister Aloni said the agreement would probably be signed next week and called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to show greater flexibility with regard to the Palestinian demands for their own postage stamp, passport, and telephone area code.

[Aloni] I think that the agreement can be signed next week. The problem is whether or not the Palestinians raise new issues and whether or not we show narrow-mindedness. As soon as the security problems are resolved we should move forward and try to make things easier, bearing in mind that we control them and are thus the last country in the world dominating another people. We should start easing things for them. I think that today the prime minister holds the key to most of the decisions and I hope that he brings the issues before the cabinet. All these ostensible symbols of sovereignty that scare some people so much should not be so terrifying. Palestine was a British colony for 30 years and had its own stamps. That did not make Palestine independent and we needed a War of Independence before we became a sovereign country. [end recording]

Sha'th: Talks Reach Final Drafting Phase

NC2704165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chief Palestinian negotiator to the Gaza-Jericho talks, has stated that the negotiations have reached the phase of the final drafting of the agreement. He praised the Egyptian leaders' efforts to help achieve this progress. At a news conference this afternoon, Dr. Sha'th said both sides are doing their best to reach an agreement and that the Israeli delegation will for the first time remain in Cairo over the weekend.

Dr. Sha'th said that the only topics officially deferred to the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are the size of the Jericho area and the Palestinian presence on the Allenby Bridge. If any other problems remain, they will be automatically deferred to them.

Dr. Sha'th said the negotiators will continue their talks until a final agreement is signed. He explained that the date of the signing of the agreement will not be set until official invitations are sent for the attendance of the signing ceremony.

Dr. Sha'th said we are moving quickly and it is very difficult for us to evaluate what we have achieved so far.

Asked whether an agreement has been reached on the issue of legal jurisdiction, Dr. Sha'th said this point is still under discussion. He indicated that today's talks did not encounter any major problems. They dealt with the transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinian civilian authority. He noted that these points were agreed on before but that they are being incorporated into one document. He added that there has been progress made on the issue of detainees.

Asked whether the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will defer the issue of legal jurisdiction to the 'Arafat-Peres meeting, Dr. Sha'th said we are trying not to leave out any point we can discuss. We are trying to spare 'Arafat and Peres the effort. He added that the timetable being prepared now is measured in days and not weeks.

Dr. Sha'th said he met with Israeli Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, who promised to help speed up the negotiating process, especially on the issuance of Palestinian stamps, which is a point of disagreement between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Agreement Said Reached on Detainees

NC2704181594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1657 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad Dahlan, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, has said that a general Palestinian-Israeli agreement is currently being formulated to release

all 8,400 Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. In a statement to MENA, he noted that this agreement allows for the release of detainees of all political inclinations so that a timetable can be worked out later.

In an earlier statement to MENA, Dahlan said that an agreement was reached to release 2,500 Palestinian detainees two days after the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement is signed, 2,000 other detainees will be released after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is completed, 500 will be released one month after the withdrawal, and 2,000 will be set free after the beginning of negotiations to implement Palestinian self-rule. He noted that no agreement has been reached on the procedure for releasing the other 1,400 detainees.

Palestinian sources said that camps are being prepared in Rafah to receive the Palestinian police force that will be deployed in Gaza after the final signing of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. These sources said that Egypt offered facilities and equipment for these camps. They noted that the Palestinian police force consists of 7,000 personnel from outside the occupied territories in addition to 2,000 from inside them.

Session of Talks Concludes

NC2704204194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2021 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—The Israeli delegation to the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, headed by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, left Cairo this evening.

The Palestinian and Israeli delegations concluded a session of talks today in which they dealt with a number of issues related to the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Rabinovich: No More 'Tempting Proposals' for Syria

TA2704124394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Interview with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich by Arye Golan in Washington, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Ambassador Rabinovich, Syria claims that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's willingness to implement a deep withdrawal and to uproot settlements on the Golan Heights, is simply a word game. Following that claim by the Syrian Government newspaper AL-BA'TH, is there still hope for a breakthrough in peace with Syria?

[Rabinovich] I think we have to differentiate between statements by the Syrian media and actual moves in the negotiations. We are on the eve of the secretary of state's visit and the important exchange of views will of course take place in Damascus between President al-Asad and Secretary Christopher and it does not necessarily depend on what the media says. At the same time, we Israelis and those who follow the process regret that while the Israeli leaders make very resolute declarations about the peace process, which indicate the depth of the Israeli commitment to the process and the readiness to discuss sensitive and painful issues, the Syrian response is disappointing. We would like the response to improve, and we hope it will be better, but this is still but the background music and not the negotiations themselves.

[Golan] Does the peace package prepared in Jerusalem for Secretary Christopher to take to Damascus include a working assumption of a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] Definitely not. I think we should not exaggerate the word, package. In order to make peace or ascertain that there is a sufficient basis for an agreement, Israel and Syria must agree on more than just two issues. That is, even if a formula acceptable to both sides is found on the issues of peace and withdrawal, that does not mean that we have reached critical mass on the arrangement.

[Golan] Have you succeeded in making any progress in the secret track you are conducting here in Washington with Syria Ambassador Walid Mu'allim?

[Rabinovich] The secret track you refer to is so secret that even I do not know about it. In the two last rounds of talks, we met with the Syrians at discreet meetings—not delegations, just private meetings, which lasted almost until daybreak. These talks were good. We started serious discussions there on security and a timetable. Starts were made on very complex issues. The negotiations with the Syrians are moving very slowly. We prepared the ground for the qualitative leap in the negotiations, which can be achieved either by the secretary of state or the political leaderships in both countries.

[Golan] Will that happen sometime in 1994?

[Rabinovich] Operatively it could take place in 1994, and that would be good. I think the Syrian approach to the negotiations is what will decide if the negotiations take off in 1994 or not.

[Golan] Does the package—or basket, as you call it—we will be sending with Christopher to al-Asad contain new ideas, proposals, promises or incentives we have not yet offered him to induce him to make peace with Israel?

[Rabinovich] No, we are not asking him to do us any favors. In the final analysis, they have to do something for an agreement to come about. If they want an agreement it is for their self-interest. From that point of view, we do not have a feeling that we have to make new, more tempting proposals. The dynamics of the negotiations have to lead to a situation whereby even finding a bridging formula on the issues of peace and withdrawal will not resolve the problem, will not form the minimal basis for a breakthrough in the negotiations. That is the reason for moving to the basket [sal] approach, which does not depend on new ideas or initiatives.

Israel Demands Meeting Between Peres, Al-Shar'

TA2704141594 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Israel is demanding that Syria make possible a meeting between Foreign Ministers Shim'on Peres and Faruq al-Shar'. It believes that Rabin's recent statements regarding the evacuation of settlements from the Golan Heights justifies a Syrian acquiescence in this issue. Such a meeting is vital for convincing the Israeli public to accept the price of peace.

These messages are being relayed to Syria via the United States. Israeli diplomatic sources briefed our correspondent about some of the ongoing contacts. It is likely that Rabin relayed similar messages via Russia as well.

According to the sources, Israel is not only demanding to upgrade the talks, but also to open a secret, informal channel of talks between trusted representatives of Rabin and al-Asad.

These talks are supposed to be conducted in the following fashion: Suppose Israel withdraws from the entire Golan, what, in your opinion, will Syria give Israel in return? This is what the Israeli representative will ask his interlocutor.

According to the sources, Syria claimed it cannot open such a secret channel despite the fact that Israel believes talks conducted without official minutes being taken are immune to leaks. Syria has also differentiated between what it termed "peace," and "the results of peace"—thus expressing its unwillingness to implement normalization immediately after the agreements are signed.

As far as the withdrawal timetable, Syria is talking about one year, whereas Israel wants the withdrawal to be phased out over a 10 year period.

The sources said that tactical differences have surfaced between the United States and Israel. While Israel is against facilitating talks on the Syrian track as long as the talks with the PLO are still going on, the United States is claiming there is no connection between the two tracks and it is inadvisable to wait until the agreements with the PLO are signed.

The sources claim this is the reason why Christopher retracted his earlier decision to wait for the Israel-PLO signing ceremony. They add he has no intention of intervening in the Israel-PLO negotiations.

The sources noted that the date for the resumption of the Washington talks will be determined only after there is an agreement with Syria regarding the framework and the contents of the talks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Justice Ministers Council Holds Session

Plan on Extremism, Violence Discussed

NC2604201694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—The 10th session of the Arab Justice Ministers Council began at the Arab League headquarters here tonight under the chairmanship of United Arab Emirates Justice Minister Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Imran Turyam.

The ministers will discuss during their two days of meetings a number of Arab issues that will boost joint Arab action, including the unification of Arab legislation, the draft law on unified financial transactions, the unified criminal draft law, the plan to unify civic measures, the Arab human rights plan, the unified Arab draft law on land registration, and the plan on preventing the phenomena of extremism and terrorism. [passage omitted]

Addressing the meeting, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the draft agreement on preventing the phenomena of extremism and terrorism is one of the most important issues that the justice ministers will discuss. He said: This issue is of concern to Arab citizens all across our Arab nation because of its close link to the Arab nation's values and traditions. These values and traditions are based on rejection of violence and terrorism and on adherence to the principles of the tolerant Islamic shari'ah, the principles of right and justice, and commitment to the international charters and the principles of public and private international law.

He added that the sons of the Arab nation are looking toward this meeting and waiting for the resolutions that will have a bearing on the core of the various aspects of Arab society. They are waiting to see the effect this will have on strengthening and bolstering Arab solidarity, which is of extreme importance in view of international and regional changes. The Arab countries have to pay attention to these changes and deal with them from a united Arab stand based on coordination and integration of the Arab efforts so as to back the Arab negotiator in the process of a comprehensive and just peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called on the Arab countries to prepare to deal with the economic changes brought about by the signing of the "GATT" agreement and to seek political solidarity and economic integration. He added that this can be brought about through the achievement of Arab reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Algerian Minister Speaks on Terrorism

LD2704094594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The proceedings of the 10th session of the council of Arab justice ministers began in Cairo last night. Over two days the participants will study a number of drafts for unified Arab legislation and a draft agreement on preventing and countering the manifestations of terrorism and extremism.

Algerian Justice Minister Mohamed Teguia, who is representing Algeria at these proceedings, said in his address that he hoped the round would produce results which would help to establish the foundations of joint Arab endeavors.

The Algerian justice minister stressed that the inclusion of a draft Arab agreement to prevent the manifestations of terrorism was an important and timely step in response to one of the most serious threats to have affected a number of Arab countries since they regained their national sovereignty.

He said that terrorism was born of extremism, and that extremism was the most dangerous plague these states had experienced in their modern history. He explained that progress could only be achieved if the preconditions of security were provided in our societies and justice prevailed in them.

Mohamed Teguia ended his address by emphasizing that Algeria was fine despite the campaigns of intimidation, and that under the new leadership it had found the road towards the solution of its problems by opening up national dialogue on the one hand and consolidating security on the other.

Iraqi Minister Urges Help Against Sanctions

JN2704133994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (INA)—Shabib al-Maliki, minister of justice and leader of the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the 10th session of the Arab Justice Ministers Council, has asserted that Iraq, under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, is very interested in promoting and enhancing joint Arab action in all areas.

In a speech delivered to the Arab Justice Ministers Council in Cairo, the minister said Iraq will keep Arab reconciliation at the top of its political agenda despite the circumstances of the embargo clamped on it. The embargo, the minister noted, will not distract Iraq from its pan-Arab role of defending the interests of the Arab nation and its fateful causes.

Shabib al-Maliki explained to the Arab justice ministers that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments per the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, Paragraph 22 of which provides for the expeditious lifting of the sanctions clamped on Iraq.

The justice minister urged Arab and international peoples, as well as the advocates and champions of justice, to strongly demand that the UN Security Council comply with its own resolutions and honor its commitments to Iraq, including the commitment to lift the embargo clamped on its mujahid people. This, he noted, is dictated by humanitarian and pan-Arab duties, not to mention the requirements of Arab solidarity.

Al-Maliki said the tenets of fairness, which the Arab justice ministers enthusiastically promote in the Arab homeland, are being disturbed in terms of international relations. These tenets are enormously jeopardized. This compromises the stability of world peoples in general, and the Arab people in particular, because Arab and international developments have made it easy for the forces of aggression and colonialism to transgress against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The justice minister commended the fair-minded and honorable people who have begun an effort to uphold right and promote common pan-Arab interests to sincerely and conscientiously express their solidarity with Iraq, demanding that the unfair, aggressive, and unjustifiable blockade enforced against it be revoked.

AMU Official on Summit, Libyan Lockerbie Crisis

NC2704172494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Algiers, 27 Apr (MENA)—Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Secretary General Mohammed Amamou has denied the existence of any political reasons or differences among the AMU member states that caused the absence of Moroccan King Hassan II and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from the Arab Maghreb summit that was held in Tunis early last month.

Amamou, who is now in Algiers to participate in the meetings of the follow-up committee, said in an interview with MENA that both leaders had their own circumstances and engagements that kept them from attending the summit. He noted that Morocco and Libya were represented at a high level and that the five member states participated in the summit with the leaders' approval.

He said the full commitment of the heads of state to the idea of a great Arab Maghreb and to serious work to consolidate progress and implement what has been agreed on in the context of the AMU was clearly evident at the Arab Maghreb summit.

In response to a question on the AMU's role in the Libyan crisis in which Libya has been accused by Western nations of involvement in the Lockerbie issue, Amamou said the AMU is continuing to do all it can to find a fair and honorable solution to this crisis that will guarantee security and stability in the region and prevent any harm being done to all peoples of the region, not just

the Libyan people. He pointed out that this crisis has had far-reaching effects on all peoples of the region, even Egypt. He stressed that the Arab Maghreb countries and Egypt are concerting their efforts along with the Arab league to solve this problem. He noted that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid entrusted the Arab foreign ministers at their latest meeting to follow up on this issue until a fair and honorable solution is found. [passage omitted]

Committee Ends Session in Algiers

LD2604225294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the 28th ordinary session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] follow-up committee ended at El-Djazair Hotel in Algiers this evening. This is the first session to be held since Algeria took over the chairmanship of the union for the current year. The participants discussed a number of issues relating to the progress achieved in the building of the Maghreb edifice.

The heads of the delegations representing the five Maghreban states also discussed the union's relations with the other regional blocs and with regional and international financial institutions.

In his closing speech, Ahmed Attaf, the chairman of the session and secretary of state in charge of cooperation and Maghreban affairs in Algeria—given that Algeria has been chairing the AMU since March—expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved by the session which, he said, would undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the Maghreban process and increase its dynamism and activity. He added that the committee would follow-up the realization of the programs drawn up by the session, particularly the sectors that require serious attention.

AMU Secretary-General Mohamed Amamou, for his part, read out a thank-you message addressed to President Liamine Zeroual in which he wished him total success in carrying out his mission as current president of the Arab Maghreb Union. [passage omitted]

Arab League Issues Statement on Israeli Measures

NC2704171294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat has expressed its deep concern over the continuing Israeli measures against Palestinian citizens in the occupied Arab territories while the Palestinian-Israeli talks pass through a very delicate stage that requires Arabs to rally around the Arab negotiator.

In a statement today, the General Secretariat said the Arab negotiator is fighting an important political battle to achieve the desired goal of establishing a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This, the statement added, requires Israel to show its credibility toward this noble goal by halting the policy of evacuation it is still carrying out in the occupied Arab territories. The statement said that the last such incident was on the night of 18 April, when the Israeli occupation forces evacuated about 110 Palestinian families from the Yatta area in Hebron and proclaimed this 20-square km area a confiscated land.

The statement noted that the Israeli authorities' campaign of arrests and wide-scale deportation measures have covered most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip cities and villages. This is Israel's largest campaign since the arrests that preceded the deportation of over 400 Palestinians in December 1992 to south Lebanon and the subsequent deportation of 2,500 Palestinian laborers who work in Israel by force and under strict military guard.

The statement emphasized that these continuous Israeli measures create a tense atmosphere that does not contribute to the peace process that the Arab countries have agreed to and all countries have supported.

The General Secretariat called on the international community, especially cosponsor countries of the peace conference the United States and Russia, to force Israel to adhere to international legitimacy resolutions, provide international protection for the Palestinian citizens, implement the Fourth Geneva Convention that stresses the protection of civilians who are under occupation, and halt its arbitrary measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories so that an appropriate climate will prevail to continue the peace process. This process, the statement added, aims to end the bloody conflict in the region and to work toward achieving security, stability, and development for all the region's nations.

Unemployment, Illiteracy in Arab States Reported

NC2704112094 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 27 (AFP)—Arab states are still suffering from high unemployment and illiteracy rates despite economic reforms and educational campaigns, and the problem is threatening stability in the region, an official Arab report said on Wednesday [27 April].

While illiteracy is expected to decline in the near future, unemployment is likely to get worse in some Arab countries due to economic slowdown and a rapid population growth, said the report by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund.

"The high unemployment rate in several Arab countries is one of the most serious problems which affect not only economic development but social and political stability," the 1993 annual report said.

"What increases the dangers of this phenomenon is that unemployment rates are steadily rising and the problem could become more complicated in future."

The report said unemployment in some Arab countries far exceeded that in industrial countries where such rates do not exceed 10 percent.

In Jordan, it rose from six percent in 1985 to 19 percent in 1991 while it increased from 13 percent to 16 percent in Tunisia, it said. In Morocco it stood at 16 percent and Algeria at 19 percent.

It said unemployment was widespread among educated people in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. "This makes the problem more worrying," it added.

The report put the workforce in the Arab League's 22 members at 66 million, which it said would increase to 81 million by the year 2000.

It said the expected growth in labour was because more women were taking up jobs and a large number of people are within working age groups.

But the report cited what it called negative aspects in the labour structure in the Arab world, including the low productivity of workers, small contribution by women to economic activity and employment of children.

"Productivity of a worker in Europe is more than six times the productivity in the Arab world," it said. "The problem is underscored in the farming sector, which accounts for 36 percent of the Arab labour force but its share in the Gross Domestic Product did not exceed 13 percent in 1992."

Surveys conducted recently in some Arab nations showed around 1.3 million children aged between 6-14 were working in Egypt while children accounted for 13.3 percent of the total workforce in Morocco's countryside, it said.

"The surveys showed that this phenomenon is prevalent in the countryside of other Arab countries," it said. "What adds to those problems is the large number of non-Arab expatriate workers in the Gulf oil producing states."

The report showed the services sector attracted the largest number of workers, acounting for 46 percent.

It was followed by the farming sector, which has 36 percent, and the industrial sector, with 18 percent.

Women accounted for only 6.7 percent of the total Arab workforce but the level was expected to jump to 20 percent in the year 2000.

"Illiteracy is another serious problem facing Arab states. Despite educational campaigns, illiteracy stood at 49 percent in 1991 compared with 66 percent in 1970. The level is expected to decline further to reach 38 percent in the year 2000," the report said.

Women are suffering most, with their illiteracy accounting for nearly 62 percent of the total. The level is expected to reach 50 percent by the year 2000, it added.

A breakdown for 1992 showed Somalia had the highest rate, standing at 75.9 percent, followed by Sudan at 72.9 percent, Yemen at 61.5 percent, Egypt at 51.6 percent and Morocco at 50.5 percent.

The report showed Lebanon and Jordan had the lowest rates, at 19.9 percent each but it did not provide figures for the United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Oman, Mauritania and Palestinians.

Islamic Affairs

Former Soviet Muslim Students Interviewed

NC2704082794 Cairo 'AQIDATI in Arabic 29 Mar 94 p 20

[Report by Jamal Salim and Tariq 'Abdallah]

[Text] After 70 years, during which Muslims—in what was once called the Soviet Union—suffered from persecution and oppression under the yoke of the communist rule which imposed on them the principles of atheism, the new Islamic republics have shaken off the dust of humiliation and degradation and replaced it with the light of Islam, of which the majority know nothing other than the two testimonies. These republics are strenuously trying to find a place for themselves on the world's map, especially as they are being subjected to many cultures that are alien to them, each of which is trying to attract them to its ranks. Egypt started to help these republics get to know their Islamic roots as soon as the Soviet Union collapsed.

Al-Azhar University President Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Shaykh said that the number of students who came in 1990-91 for higher studies reached 7,204, while 39,708 such students came to the university during 1985-1992, and the overall number during the scholastic year 1991-92 reached 8,118. He added that 250 scholarships had been given to the new Islamic countries and there will be 250 this year. He said that the number of scholarships will be increased in the coming years.

'AQIDATI has met with the following students:

Muhammad 'Ali Hakim Sharif from Tajikistan—a fourth-year student in the Islamic Research Institute. He said: A group of Muslims from Tajikistan, including myself, have come to study in Egypt at the expense of the Islamic Relief Organization. He added: Muslims in our country suffer from weak religious awareness and many of them know nothing about Islam other than the two testimonies. This is why I have come to Egypt full of determination to try to fill this vacuum, which is increasing daily because the communists killed a large number of 'ulema and shaykhs.

Muhammad Ahmad Qadi from Dagestan—a second-year high school student at the Islamic Research Institute. He said: We Muslims in Dagestan are suffering from a struggle between the remnants of the collapsed communism and the new light of Islam. The population

of Dagestan is three million, of whom 75 percent are Muslims. Regrettably, though the president of the republic is a Muslim he is also a communist. This is why we have suffered from much persecution, including a ban on prayers and on celebrating Muslim holy days. In these conditions, my father played a big role by setting up a secret office for teaching the Holy Koran and the Arabic language. Even though the 'ulema in our country are very few in number there are conflicts among them over trivial matters of jurisprudence. This is why we are in dire need of more Muslim 'ulema from all over the world, provided they are tolerant and well educated.

The child Qutb-al-Din Tabari from Tajikistan gave us details of his visit to Egypt. He said: I came to Egypt to learn the Arabic language and memorize the holy Koran. Currently I am a student at the Ahmad Libi Elementary School in Madinat al-Nasr. Praise be to God, I have succeeded in memorizing five parts of the holy Koran. I am making diligent efforts to memorize the entire book. I am doing well in my Arabic lessons at the elementary institute. I will also attend the Islamic Research Institute and afterward al-Azhar University.

Tabari added: When I go back to my country I will become an Islamic preacher and I will explain the concepts and fundamentals of Islam to my kinsfolk. I recall that when I returned to Tajikistan, I urged my friends to visit Egypt and learn Arabic and the fundamentals of Islam because al-Azhar is a scientific institute where Islam is well taught.

Zaynatallah Habiballah from Tajikistan is still waiting for the results of her exams at the Islamic Research Institute. She said she will attend al-Azhar University. She added: I believe that my education at al-Azhar is a mission that I must accomplish well. I come from a Muslim family in Tajikistan who perform the Islamic religious duties. My grandfather was an ulema who was educated at al-Azhar.

'Abd-al-Qadir Amin from Eastern Turkmenistan is a first-year student at the Shari'ah and Law School. He said: I came to Egypt three years ago on a grant from al-Azhar. I am learning the fundamentals of true Islam in order to propagate it in Eastern Turkmenistan. No awareness of Islam exists there, even though there are 25 million Muslims in Turkmenistan. Muslims throughout the world are unaware of the situation in Eastern Turkmenistan, where Islam is threatened with complete extinction despite this huge population.

Ramadan Shunshula from Dagestan is a student at the Islamic Research Institute. He said: The Muslims in Dagestan suffer from the communist rule of the country despite the collapse of communism. The Muslims are trying to regain their glories and the fundamentals of their religion. Hence, I urge the Islamic countries and organizations as well as all the Arab countries to keep the Muslims in mind and promote Islamic awareness in our country. Western missionaries are making intensive efforts to dominate the mentalities of the Muslim people in Dagestan. Muslims of the whole world should take responsibility for us.

Mustafa Tabari from Uzbekistan said: Our country is currently witnessing a huge Islamic awakening due to its dire need for Islam. Accordingly, many mosques, Islamic schools, and religious institutes have been built since independence. Furthermore, a Religious Affairs Ministry has been established to supervise such activities. We look forward to the support of the Islamic countries, particularly Egypt, in terms of the religious education in our country. Tabari added: We learned the Arabic language in the first year through our mixing with the people and avid reading.

Ya'qub Bin-Khalduf is from the Tatar Republic. He is in the second year of al-Azhar High School. He said that more attention should be paid to non-Arabic-speaking students, adding that these students should receive a one-year intensive courses in the fundamentals and basics of the Arabic language, in addition to the principles of Islam and its rulings regarding purity, prayers, fasting, and alms. He added: The students should take an exam at the end of the year, the results of which will determine the student's educational stage at al-Azhar.

Muhammad Karim from Tajikistan had the following to say: Our country is currently witnessing a power struggle between the Communists and Islamists. Accordingly, religious activities have so far been banned. The Islamic organizations must increase the number of scholarships to overcome this ban and to end the lack of awareness of the Islamic religion.

Ilyas Bin-Sulayman from Uzbekistan, a student at al-Azhar High School, says that Islam in Uzbekistan. [sentence incomplete as published]

Alluding to the problems facing them in obtaining scholarships at al-Azhar, 'Abd-al-Halim Bin-Fadl al-Din from Uzbekistan, who is at the al-Azhar Preparatory Institute, said: Our main problem lies in insufficient knowledge of Arabic and the lack of funds required for our travel to Egypt.

Firdaws Bin-'Abd-al-Hafiz from Uzbekistan said: I spent two years at the al-Bukhari Islamic Institute in Samarkand. I learned a certain amount of Arabic. I also learned the five foundations of Islam. But this is not sufficient for a graduate to propagate Islam in an affective and influential manner. Therefore, we decided to attend al-Azhar in order to learn Islam properly so we could carry out the propagation in our country.

He added: Praise be to God, there are still good people in the world. Shaykh Sa'ud 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Butayni from Kuwait undertook to send 57 students from Uzbekistan to complete their studies at al-Azhar at his own expense. Shaykh al-Butayni also provided all the funds for the students' transportation and tuition fees until the end of our studies at al-Azhar.

Anas Ya'qub from Tajikistan, a seventh grader at al-Azhar School, said: I joined al-Azhar fully determined to learn the true religion in order to convey my knowledge to my kinsfolk. To a question about the most prominent ulema and scholars in the Muslim world, Ya'qub said: I like to listen to Shaykh al-Husari, Shaykh Mahmud 'Ali al-Banna, and Shaykh al-Hudhayfi.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Calls Leadership Meeting on Agreement

NC2704113194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tunis, 27 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called Palestinian leaders, including officials from Gaza and Jericho, to an emergency meeting in Tunis on the night of Friday, 29 April. The aim of the meeting is to discuss the final draft of the agreement on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. The signing will pave the way for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

'Arafat also invited a number of Palestinian and Arab legal advisers, including Dr. Mufid Shihab and Dr. Salah 'Amir from Egypt, to give their opinions on the agreement that will be signed with Israel once it is approved by the Palestinian leadership.

According to well-informed Palestinian sources, 'Arafat called the meeting following intensive discussions within the Fatah Movement's Central Committee earlier this week. The meeting is expected to address recent criticism of the agreement by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks. 'Abd-al-Shafi had said that the agreement is not binding on the Palestinians in Gaza, a place where 'Abd-al-Shafi wields considerable clout.

The same sources say that 'Arafat is in favor of signing the self-rule agreement with Israel even if some issues remain unresolved, in which case self-rule in Gaza and Jericho will get under way at once and the remaining problems will be worked out later.

'Arafat, Egyptian Envoy Discuss Talks, Cairo Visit

NC2704061194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat last night received Ibrahim 'Allam, Egypt's Ambassador to Tunisia. Following the session, Ambassador 'Allam said that he and President 'Arafat reviewed the Palestinian-Israeli talks currently under way in Cairo and Paris, the current efforts designed to overcome the obstacles at these talks, as well as preparations for 'Arafat's visit to Cairo due to take place today, Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reports that the Egyptian ambassador conveyed an important message to 'Arafat from the Egyptian leadership dealing with recent political developments in the region.

PLO To Seek Christopher's Help in Self-Rule Deal

NC2704163894 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 27 (AFP)—The PLO will seek the help of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher to press Israel to change its stance to the remaining hurdles in the self-rule talks, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday [27 April].

Faysal al-Husayni told reporters the Palestinian delegation here would inform Christopher of some of the issues obstructing the launch of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Christopher is expected here later Wednesday, after arriving in Riyadh earlier on the first leg of a Middle East tour designed to give fresh impetus to the peace process.

He would be told of the difficulties "so that he can try to convince the Israelis to change" some of their positions, al-Husayni.

Israeli and PLO delegations resumed their talks here Wednesday to try to iron out the remaining differences to seal an accord to launch self-rule.

Al-Husayni, who is the main PLO leader in the occupied territories, said although the issue of jurisdiction in the territories remained "the main obstacle" there had been a breakthrough.

He said both sides had agreed that the Israeli military controlling the three lateral roads linking Israel to the settlements in Gaza would have the right to question non-Israeli and non-Palestinian foreigners.

If the visitors were accused of a serious crime, then they would be handed over to Palestinian authorities, al-Husayni said.

But the two sides still disagree on who should have the right to try a Palestinian who attacked a settler, he said, adding he was not taking part in the talks.

He insisted the future Palestinian authorities should be given "full powers," saying incomplete powers would reduce their ability "to provide total security," in Gaza, where Jewish settlements will remain, and in Jericho.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem Palestinian leaders said they would urge Christopher to press Israel to ease its restrictions on the territories.

Sa'ib Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington, said the situation in the territories and the continued Israeli settlement would be "the main subject on the agenda" at a meeting planned with Christopher in East Jerusalem on Friday.

Christopher is expected to travel to Israel from Egypt on Thursday for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin Friday before heading to Syria on Saturday.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said on Tuesday it was "not impossible" that he would meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Thursday in Cairo, but it depended on how the talks progressed.

Arafat is expected here Wednesday overnight, an Egyptian official said.

Al-Husayni Comments on Security in Gaza, Jericho

NC2704114394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation at the Washington peace talks, has emphasized that Israel's failure to grant the Palestinians full authority in Gaza and Jericho will result in ineffective control over the security situation.

In a statement today, he said: We must have a complete authority so that security will be achieved for everyone.

He expressed his hope that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will result in resolving the problems blocking the peace process. He also hoped that the U.S. side, as a cosponsor of the peace conference, will persuade the Israelis to change some of their policies on the negotiations.

Al-Husayni affirmed that his visit to Egypt is private and has nothing to do with the negotiations or with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo.

He announced that a meeting is expected to be held between representatives of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories and the PLO leadership in Tunis next week as part of continuous coordination in preparation for the next stage once an agreement to implement the Gaza-Jericho Accord is signed.

PLO Official: Deportees To Return From Jordan

JN2704134294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—The Embassy of the state of Palestine in Amman has said that it has been decided to return the second group of Palestinian deportees, which includes 18 deportees, to their homeland today, Wednesday [27 April].

Khalid Mismar, the embassy's media official, told AL-RA'Y that seven of these deportees will return through the Rafah crossing point at the Palestinian-Egyptian border. They include 'Ata Abu- Kursah, 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-'Ataya, Fathi Hajjaj, 'Abd-al-Fattah Ziyadah, 'Isam al-Agha, Fayiz al-Shurbaji, and 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

Mismar added that the rest of the returning deportees, which include 11 deportees, will return through King Husayn bridge. They will gather in front of the Embassy of the state of Palestine in Amman today. They include Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jalil al-Mutawwar, Jamal Dhiyab Abu-Latifah, Muhammad Sa'id Midyah, Salim Ahmad Baryush, Jamal 'Abdallah Jibarah, 'Uthman Muhammad Dawud, Hani Muhammad Khulub, 'Isam Amin al-Dib'i, Bahjat Mustafa al-Jayyusi, Rashid Abu-Bakr, and Nur-al-Din 'Ali al-Ja'bari.

The first group of deportees returned to the occupied territories on 6 April after talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Cairo.

Executive Member Urges 'Escalation' of Confrontation

PM2604131694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Surani Urges Escalation of Confrontation With Israelis"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani has reaffirmed "the need for the continuation of the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory and for the escalation of confrontational operations against the Israelis to force them to speed up their withdrawal."

Although the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement is imminent, al-Surani, who is opposed to the Declaration of Principles agreement, believes that "the Palestinian-Israeli negotiation sessions have exposed Israel's lies about its desire for peace and also exposed its continuing refusal to implement the UN resolutions and its violation of the fourth Geneva Convention."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, al-Surani described the agreement between Fatah and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) as "a step toward unification of the various Palestinian factions within the framework of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

He accused the U.S. Administration of "appeasing" Israel. He added that when the Palestinians "defend their rights they are accused of terrorism but the Israeli repression and murders are seen by them as security preccautions."

PFLP-GC Leader Announces Split, Forms New Command

JN2704163594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Following sharp differences within the ranks of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], led by Ahmad Jibril,

Mustafa Khamis, a PFLP-GC leader, today decided to split from the PFLP-GC and form what he called the Popular Front-General Islamic Command.

Mustafa Khamis, who was a member of the PFLP-GC Central Committee and member of the Palestine National Council, said today in Amman that he has decided, along with a group of the cadres operating in the territories, to split in the wake of severe financial and administrative corruption within PFLP-GC ranks.

The group that split from the PFLP-GC, led by Mustafa Khamis, accuses Ahmad Jibril and the PFLP-GC leadership of no longer being able to run the PFLP-GC, saying their fighting is not in the interest of the Palestinian people and its cause.

Khamis said Jibril's nationalist attitude and his arrogance have driven him to destroy the PFLP-GC, noting that the decision to split follows the failure of the PFLP-GC leaders to persuade Jibril to change his unilateral conduct during the meetings of the PFLP-GC Central Committee, held in Damascus last month.

The PFLP-GC was established in 1968 when Ahmad Jibril split, along with dozens of his supporters, from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habash, against the background of personal competition between the two men over the leadership of the front.

The PFLP-GC today forms a part of the Damascus-based Palestinian opposition factions.

Signatories to Anti-'Arafat Memorandum Named

TA2604162294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Apr 94 pp 1, 19

[By Zaki Abu-al-Halawah and Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—In a memorandum addressed to Palestinian and international public opinion, leading Palestinian figures in the occupied territories warned that any Israeli-Palestinian agreement that fails to respond to the Palestinian people's legitimate and natural rights will not achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

The memorandum was signed by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Mamduh al- 'Akir, Su'ad al-'Amiri, Jabi Baramaki, Yunus al-Jaru, Ahmad Hamzah al-Natshah, 'Abd-al-Hadi Abu-Khusa, Muhammad Zayn-al-Din, 'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, Mustafa al-Barghuthi, Ghassan al-Khatib, 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, Samir 'Abdallah, Shawkat Zayd al-Kilani, Iyad al-Sarraj, Sharif al-Musa, Raja Shihadah, Hani 'Arafat, Raji al-Surani, Fayyad al-Fayyad, Muhammad Zaki al-Radwan, Farid Abu-Wardah, and Sami Abu-Sha'ban.

'Arafat Reportedly To Meet Hamas Leaders in Jordan

JN2704171894 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Apr 94 pp 1, 26

[Excerpt] Cairo—Damascus—AL-ITTIHAD, News Agencies—Arab sources in Cairo have told AL-ITTIHAD that a reconciliatory meeting will be held soon between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and officials of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which has recently proposed a truce with Israel if the latter withdraws from territories occupied in 1967 and removes the settlements.

The sources welcomed 'Arafat's planned urgent visit to Jordan next week to meet for the first time with Hamas leaders, foremost of whom are Muhammad Nazzal and Ibrahim Ghawshah and to clear the way for a complete reconciliation between the PLO and the movement.

Hamas yesterday reiterated its denial of reports that it recognizes Israel's right to exist, but stressed its readiness to conclude a truce with Israel if it agrees to withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem; remove the settlements; evacuate the settlers; and hold general elections for the Palestinian people to elect their leaders and representatives. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Allegedly Offers Hamas Gaza Municipality

JN2604124994 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Apr 94 pp 1, 18

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpts] What is taking place between Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas? This question is being posed in light of the reported contacts between the two parties, especially after Hamas' pledge to Yasir 'Arafat to name him president if he voices commitment to implement Islamic law.

Hamas' pledge seems to have been taken seriously by Yasir 'Arafat, who unhesitatingly held contacts with this movement's leaders in Gaza through Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Egypt to ask them to meet him in Cairo after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Hamas' pledge, however, was not taken seriously by the other Palestinian rejectionist factions that are allied with Hamas under the Alliance of Palestinian Forces. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian president has prepared a complete file for the Cairo meeting. The file primarily addresses the situation in Gaza under the autonomy and spells out foundations for the relationship between the Hamas movement and the self-rule authority.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that 'Arafat will propose that Hamas take over the Gaza municipality in a preemptive attempt to prevent it from asking for half the seats of the self-rule. [passage omitted]

Hamas Statement Stresses Claim to Palestinian Land

JN2604140194 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 26 Apr-2 May 94 p 8

[Text] Hamas Political Bureau Chairman Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq's interview with AL-SABIL last week and the Political Bureau's 16 April statement sparked controversy among political circles. The news media misinterpreted both the interview and statement. Therefore, we deem it important to publish the following 21 April Hamas Political Bureau statement:

In the light of the political concept presented by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; in the light of the various official and media reactions to what was said; and in the light of the statements made by the U.S. secretary of state and officials in the enemy government and other states, Hamas would like to emphasize the following:

1. Escalation of the brave popular resistance and continuation of jihad and military operations against the occupying enemy will be maintained as long as the Zionist occupation of our blessed Palestinian land is continuing and until our usurped Palestinian soil has been fully liberated from the sea to the river.

The Hamas Movement believes that the so-called settlement negotiations currently taking place between the PLO leadership and the Zionist enemy are doomed to failure because they are based on consecrating injustice, aggression, and occupation, and held under Zionist hegemony and arrogance and official Arab and Palestinian weakness. These negotiations are a submission and capitulation to the Zionist and U.S. terms and dictates and conflict with our patient people's will and struggling forces. Hamas also reiterates its clear rejection of the flimsy self-rule.

3. Hamas has presented its political concept through its Political Bureau's statement as well as the statements made by the head of the Political Bureau. These statements were unequivocally clear. However, some news media disseminated them in a mutilated and incomplete manner, suggesting that there is some sort of change in Hamas' policy, programs, and concept of the conflict with the occupying enemy. Some even went so far as to interpret the Movement's statements in their own way, claiming that Hamas proposes peace with the occupying Zionists, recognizes the usurping Zionist enemy, and similar wrong utterances and interpretations.

4. The Hamas Movement's concept as presented to the sons of our people and their struggling forces calls for:

A. The unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

B. The dismantlement and removal of settlements and the evacuation of settlers from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

C. General free legislative elections for the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories in order to enable them to elect their leadership and true representatives. Only this elected and legitimate leadership will be authorized to express our people's will and aspirations. It alone can decide all the subsequent steps of our conflict with the occupiers.

5. Hamas explained through the statements of the chairman of its Political Bureau that if the Hamas Movement and its political program win the confidence of our Palestinian people in general elections, Hamas will then express our people's will and implement its program for the sake of pooling our people's efforts and forces and unifying their ranks for the liberation of all of their territory and holy shrines. If the outcome of the elections is different, Hamas will then respect the opinion of the majority, adhere to their constants and programs, and seek to accomplish them and express their opinion with full freedom and vigor.

6. The above-mentioned statements did not include what some tried to circulate as a Hamas recognition of the usurping Zionist entity, acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242, or relinquishment of Hamas' program and genuine Islamic constants which consider Palestine an Islamic land which should not be ceded, relinquished, or bargained over.

Finally, this is Hamas' concept, which was strongly and clearly presented from the position of its escalating jihad. It appeals to all the sons of our struggling Palestinian people and influential forces to rally around this political concept and join hands to implement it on the ground. The Hamas Movement, which expresses the people's will and the pulse of the living Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic masses, stresses that it will continue its jihad and valiant resistance of the unjust Zionist occupation, along with all the faithful sons of our people, on the path of victory and liberation.

Hamas Threatens Attacks If Prisoners Not Released

TA2704064194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Hamas terrorists are threatening to carry out a wave of attacks and kidnappings if all Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners are not released from jail. The threat came in a leaflet claiming responsibility for last week's murder of Israeli soldier Shahar Simhoni. The leaflet carries a photocopy of Simhoni's ID card. Meanwhile, arrests are continuing in the Janin area, of

Hamas members connected to the Hadera bombing. More on these developments from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Ben-'Ami] The Hamas leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip says that members of 'Izz-al-Dan al-Qassam's Squad No. 6 kidnapped and killed soldier Shahar Simhoni last week. According to the leaflet, which reproduced the soldier's ID card and driver's license, the terrorists passed themselves off as Jews, grabbed Simhoni, who was on his way to his girlfriend from his Army base, and after a short struggle, killed him. [passage omitted]

The leaflet is addressed to Prime Minister Rabin and demands that he immediately release all Hamas prisoners, especially the Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and Hamas members captured in recent weeks. If not, the leaflet warns, the killing or kidnapping of Israelis will continue. The threats are coming against the backdrop of a major crack down on Hamas by security forces. [passage omitted]

Israel Said Planning To Assassinate Hamas Leaders

NC2604153594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that Israel has prepared a plan to assassinate Hamas leaders in response to the hostile operations Hamas mujahidin have carried out inside the occupied territories that have killed and wounded scores of Israelis during the past two weeks.

The Israeli security services, military intelligence, and Mosad last week approved the final plan, which consists of several phases. The first phase envisages the assassination of 200 Hamas leaders while the second phase envisages the assassination of 400 leaders. The assassination operations will target Hamas leaders in Britain, Jordan, Sudan, Lebanon and other countries. New methods will be used in these operations.

The Israeli military intelligence service has agreed to finance a number of Jewish terrorist organizations that will carry out these operations.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has approved the plan. The Israeli Foreign Ministry has asked its embassies abroad to gather the necessary information to carry out the assassinations. The Israeli Embassy in Cairo has been asked to gather information on the movements of Hamas leaders in neighboring Arab countries.

Official: Fatah-Hamas 'Basic Differences' Continue

JN2704184494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, one of the officials of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Damascus, said that last Friday's [22 April] agreement between representatives of the Fatah Hawks and the Hamas 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions in Gaza is not the beginning of a political agreement between the two sides. The Hamas official said the agreement was signed to resolve some of the differences on outstanding issues between the military wings of the two movements and to lay the foundations of dialogue to resolve possible future problems and prevent a resort to arms and starting an internecine Palestinian fighting.

Abu-Muhammad Mustafa pointed out that this is not the first time that such an agreement has been signed between the Fatah hawks and the al-Qassam battalions, adding that the political stands and the basic differences on the Oslo-Cairo agreement and the stands on the occupation and the Palestinian cause are still the same between Hamas and Fatah.

As for the reported joint seminar between Hamas and Fatah, which was held at the Islamic University in Gaza recently, Mustafa said that the seminar was just an open debate among students and that differences between the two debating sides continued unabated. He added: This has nothing to do with allegations that Hamas has begun to retreat from its principled stands.

Britain To Construct Power Station in Territories

TA2604162794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Excerpt] London, QUDS PRESS—British sources have confirmed that Britain has agreed to construct a power station in the occupied territories as part of a $300 million trade deal. The sources said that the agreement was reached during recent talks in Tunis between British diplomats and PLO officials. The implementation of this agreement was "linked" to the attainment of self-rule authority by the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Officials

Speaks at News Conference

LD2704140294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] A news conference has been held at Iqamat el-Mithaq [near Algiers]. It was attended by the national pressmen and chaired by His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister.

The Shaykh began his news conference by praising the positive development in Kuwait's relations with Algeria and the rest of fraternal countries before dwelling on the possibility of the state of Kuwait giving financial assistance. He also dealt with the oil issue and the possibility of reducing Kuwait's quota in a bid to rally the oil prices.

[Begin al-Sabah recording] I hope that this news conference will be an opportunity to explain Kuwait's stance on the main issues of common interest to our two countries and to the Arab and Islamic nation. I would like at the beginning to praise the constructive talks which I have had in Algeria. I was honored to have a meeting with His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, to whom I conveyed a message from his brother, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the amir of the state of Kuwait, on our two countries' relations as well as other topics of common interest.

I would like here to praise the atmosphere which prevailed during our meeting. It was an atmosphere of brotherhood, clarity, and frankness. I have acquainted myself at this meeting with the Algerian officials' viewpoints on current issues.

I also had talks with Mr. Mokdad Sifi, the head of government, and with my brother and colleague Mohamed Salah Dembri, the minister of foreign affairs. I explained at these talks Kuwait's principled stance on a number of current issues. I would like to point out here that I was glad to find understanding of and appreciation for our position and our efforts. I would like to reiterate my gratitude and appreciation for Algeria and my brother the foreign minister and his aides for providing an atmosphere of amity for our visit and for their warm hospitality. [end recording]

Dembri Interviewed on Ties With Kuwait

LD2704185094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1717 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Algiers, 27 Apr, KUNA—Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri today expressed his "astonishment that there was some confusion" over his country's position on the crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said that the position adopted from the beginning "was clear and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territory."

He added, in an interview with the Kuwaiti news agency, that the visit of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Algeria "was an opportunity to remove the misunderstanding resulting from the crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait."

The Algerian foreign minister also called for the rebuilding of Arab solidarity in accordance with principles that take into account the national character of every people of the Arab nation and that respect the sovereignty of states and their existing borders. Dembri also said: "The Arab world needs solidarity to confront external challenges." He indicated that this did not mean ignoring the foundations and principles on which such a solidarity had to be built. He added, in this respect, that his talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dealt with ways to achieve an effective Arab solidarity that would be beneficial to the Arab nation.

Regarding the future of Kuwaiti-Algerian relations in the light of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit, Dembri said that the talks between the two sides "will give a big boost to bilateral relations." He added that the relations between the two countries "are solid and good but they need to be somewhat revived in a number of areas."

Joint Statement Issued

LD2704224194 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The State of Kuwait and Algeria tonight stressed the need for preparing the conditions that would restore security and stability in all the countries of the Gulf region, including an affirmation to honor the independence and sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and guarantee its borders, which had been confirmed by international legitimacy. This was stated in a joint Kuwaiti-Algerian statement that also included an emphasis on the need for adherence to the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the settlement of the issue of Kuwaiti and other POW's so that the collective conscience of the Arab peoples would finally leave behind that tragedy.

The statement, issued on the occasion of a visit to Algeria that ended today by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in appreciation of Algeria's clear and firm stance vis-a-vis the sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait.

The statement said that the two sides exchanged views regarding Arab and international issues of mutual concern. The statement expressed Algeria and Kuwait's commitment to the Arab League and UN charters; honoring the territorial integrity and regional security of states; equality of sovereignty; inadmissibility of gaining territory by force; settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and adherence to the principles of international legitimacy and the precepts of international law.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister left Algeria tonight for Mauritania.

In another development, Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri expressed his amazement tonight at the misunderstanding about his country's stance regarding the crisis that resulted from the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. He pointed out that the Algerian stance had been clear from the outset; it demanded an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The Algerian minister of foreign affairs called for the reestablishment of Arab solidarity on bases that would take into consideration the national identity of all the peoples of the Arab nation and honor the sovereignty of states and their existing borders.

Algerian-Libyan Committee on Cooperation Meets

LD2704151694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The proceedings of the Algerian-Libyan joint committee for cooperation have begun at El Djazair Hotel this morning under the chairmanship of Mr. Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state for cooperation and Maghreban affairs; and Mr. Sulayman Sasi al- Shahhumi, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Unity in charge of Maghreban Affairs.

The committee's two-day proceedings are merely preparatory meetings for the higher joint committee meeting which is due to take place in Libya shortly.

The committee is examining a number of proposals on the means for bolstering the two countries' cooperation. For this purpose four [as heard] committees for economic, financial, industry and energy, transport, communications, and cultural and scientific cooperation have been set up in order to give the experts of the two countries the opportunity to examine proposals that have been presented in the aforementioned fields.

On the expected outcome of these meetings, Sulayman Sasi al-Shahhumi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity has given us the following explanations:

[Begin al-Shahhumi recording] I am expecting this committee to prepare the files and the agenda, and to follow up what had been decided in the previous seven meetings in order to prepare the 8th meeting of the higher joint committee due to take place in Libya next month, God willing. We are looking forward to realizing and following up all previous decisions, as well as giving them new momentum within the framework of bilateral relations, which should all fall within the framework of the edifice of the Arab Maghreb Union [end recording]

On the aspects of the cooperation which can be given priority during these proceedings Ahmed Attaf, secretary of state for cooperation and Maghreban affairs, has said the following:

[Begin Attaf recording] The cooperation between Libya and Algeria is a comprehensive one; it encompasses all spheres, i.e. economic, financial, cultural, and transport. It is a comprehensive one, and we are looking forward to this, and this meeting will help in preparing as well as possible the forthcoming meeting of the higher joint committee which is due to be chaired by the heads of government in both Algeria and Libya.

Our Libyan brothers have arrived here with constructive proposals to bolster our cooperation and, we also have our proposals and ideas on how to develop our two countries' cooperation. [end recording]

Envoy Cited on Madrid Talks on Sahara

LD2704162594 Rabat MAP in English 1443 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 27 (MAP)—An Algerian authorized source said that the Algerian ambassador to Spain was speaking on behalf of his country and voicing Algeria's standpoint when he addressed a conference held recently in Madrid on the peace plan in the Sahara.

The statement came following the response of Morocco to the Algerian diplomat's "vigorous and deluding" statements before the conference and after a Moroccan official source wondered whether the Algerian diplomat was expressing his own standpoint vis-a-vis the situation in the Sahara or that of his country which repeatedly claimed it was observing restraint regarding the Sahara issue.

The ambassador had said that the present deadlock in the Sahara issue was due to "the hesitations of one of the two sides...while the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has always showed a high spirit of maturity".

The Algerian source, quoted by the official news agency "APS" said the Algerian ambassador is plenipotentiary and was attending the conference as Algeria's official representative.

Foreign Minister Views Maghreb Economic Ties

LD2704164094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our colleague Saliha Bahri asked Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri yesterday what he thought about chances for transforming the Arab Maghreb Union into a regional bloc and about its relations with the European Union.

[Begin Dembri recording] In theory this is an easy option for us. However, when it comes to practice it is necessary to first build the Maghreb bloc up as a strong economic group, a matter which has yet to be achieved. The European Community has had 30 years of experience behind it before it was possible to realize a strong economy and abolish borders between European countries. As far as we are concerned we are still at the

beginning; it is necessary for us now to examine all aspects of trade: individual movement and everything else. We have to build the Maghreb house first before one can talk as a bloc with any other bloc in the world. [end recording]

Economic Workshop Attended by Government Officials

Sifi Comments on Government Plan

LD2804041294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The information and study workshop on the prospects of the Algerian economy, organized by the presidency and premiership and attended by some members of the government and principal economic and social partners ended this evening.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi revealed during the information and study workshop that the government's plan would be announced soon. Sifi said the plan would revolve around controlling unemployment and inflation and the revitalization of some priority sectors.

[Begin Sifi recording] The government will work, through its plan of action, which will be announced soon, to, first, resume economic growth so it will be possible to combat unemployment in a better way and facilitate the participation of all the economic and social operators in that; second, to ensure an expansion in growth by selecting the sectors that should be given priority, such as housing, agriculture, small and medium institutions, and the hydrocarbons sector. The growth and promotion of these sectors will contribute toward raising [words indistinct] our economy and improving returns through effective utilization, and (?provision) and competition in external markets. Third, the government will work to restore the tenacity of external and internal financial balance and stabilization of the national currency. Fourth, it will work to ease the effects of the social cost of the program of stability and economic advancement and improve the effectiveness of protecting the more deprived social groups [end recording].

Workshop Makes Recommendations

LD2804085794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The information and study workshop on the prospects for the Algerian economy, which was set up by the presidency and government and in which members of the government and the main social and economic operators participated, has issued its recommendations. In the recommendations, the participants urge that a start be made this year on drawing up a comprehensive and coherent program for institutional reforms and restructuring, in order to free the initiative of economic operators and reintroduce a market economy mechanism.

The participants also recommended that as soon as possible work should begin on drawing up a coherent program to restructure the public sector in order to increase output; work should also begin on the reorganization and diversification of the activities of banks. They also recommended the reintroduction of a system that would encourage partnership.

Concerning the social sphere, the participants stressed the importance of bolstering the program for social and economic development, as part of the embodiment of social justice, through the consolidation of the national system of social security and the protection of the purchasing power of those strata who are below the poverty line. They also stressed the importance of bolstering dialogue and national solidarity. [passage omitted]

Security Forces 'Eliminate' 12 'Terrorists'

LD2604204194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The security forces have announced, in a statement, that they managed to eliminate 12 terrorists and arrest two others between 23-25 April. and that they have recovered a large quanity of weapons.

Student Killed, Doctor Wounded in 'Terrorist' Attacks

LD2804035094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] A statement by the security services today announced that Moulay Tahar, a 45-year-old doctor working in the capital, was the victim of a terrorist attack on 26 April at about 1115 hours. The source said that Moulay was wounded after two armed people stormed his office located in a clinic at Makaria in the municipality of Hussein Dey.

A 16-year-old student at Sadadou Mourad secondary school was also the subject of a terrorist attack yesterday at Meftah, in the province of Blida, south of the capital. The security services' statement said that the victim, who was attacked by a group of terrorists armed with automatic pistols and sawn-off shot guns, died of his wounds on the spot.

Egypt

Musa Confirms 'Arafat, Peres, Christopher To Visit

NC2704144794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo at midnight, Israeli Foreign Minister

Shim'on Peres will arrive tomorrow morning, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive this evening.

Musa said a session of talks with the U.S. secretary of state will be held tomorrow morning. The talks will focus on the Middle East peace process and international issues of mutual interest. He added that President Mubarak will receive the three visitors in separate meetings tomorrow after the speech that he will deliver on workers' day.

Musa said Palestinian officials have informed him that the delegations to the Palestinian-Israeli talks have reached an agreement on most issues. He indicated that the Syrian track in the peace talks will be discussed tomorrow.

Musa said contacts are under way to arrange a meeting between Christopher, 'Arafat, and Peres.

Commentary Previews Christopher's Visit

NC2704181794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Christopher's Visit to Cairo and the Aspirations for a Just and Comprehensive Peace in the Region"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Egypt to promote the peace process coincides with the progress made in the Palestinian-Israeli talks on the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. The visit reflects a U.S. appreciation of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak for his intensive efforts to achieve an honorable peace providing the firm bases for Egyptian and other Arab peoples to build themselves and assert their existence in this changing world.

Christopher's visit to the region reflects U.S. awareness of the importance of intervention on the level of the U.S. secretary of state at this phase in the peace process to prevent any setback that will return the talks to the whirlpool of Israeli obstacles aimed at extorting the Palestinians and turning the two self-rule areas into a prison without barbed wire. The visit reflects a U.S. desire for the success of the peace process to bypass the stage of wars to a new Middle East enjoying peace, security, cooperation, and prosperity for all the region's peoples.

We believe the U.S. secretary of state must convince the Israelis to respect their pledges and signatures on the September agreement in Washington. He must also convince them that the only guarantee for their security is a just and comprehensive peace through which the Arabs will have their occupied lands restored and the Palestinians will regain all their legitimate rights. Israel must realize that regional peace and security are not its demand alone. Concern for peace and stability must be reflected in a clear commitment that the world can see and that the Middle East peoples can experience. The Middle East peoples are in dire need of peace and stability in order to devote themselves to development.

Mubarak's Egypt has played a vanguard role for the sake of peace and stability in this part of the world. It continues to play this key role for peace, which will provide common security for all parties. President Mubarak has called on all parties to work to continue the peace process.

Undoubtedly, accelerating the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement will be a sign of hope in a region whose people have lived in despair and disappointment for a long time, especially the Palestinian people. Speeding up the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will give credibility to the process of a comprehensive peace and encourage the other Arab parties to sit at the negotiating table.

It is a fact that President Husni Mubarak is playing an important role in pushing forward the peace process on all tracks. Egypt is the biggest Arab country and has the first experience of a permanent peace with Israel.

All parties must realize that Egypt is not prepared to put any pressure on the Palestinian leadership to compel it to adopt unacceptable stances or to approve unsatisfactory proposals. Egypt is not a mediator. It does not play a neutral role between the Arabs and Israel. Egypt's stance is part of the Arab stance on interests and rights, including the Palestinian people's interests and rights.

We are certain that the ship of peace will sail again. The difficult and complicated negotiations taking place in Cairo and President Husni Mubarak's continuing contacts with all parties will ultimately persuade Israel to respond to the Palestinian demands. Egypt is hosting the talks on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord and President Mubarak is sponsoring these talks. In view of President Mubarak's personal role for the sake of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace, we say that the peace we desire must include the Palestinians, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and must return to them their legitimate rights.

Reportage on Christopher, 'Arafat, Peres Visits

Foreign Minister Welcomes Christopher

NC2704203194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Cairo this evening as part of his current tour of the region. He was met at Cairo Airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and U.S. Embassy staff.

As soon as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived, a ceremony was held at Cairo airport to deliver vehicles, given as the first part of American assistance to the Palestinian police force. The vehicles were received by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President

Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and senior Palestinian Embassy staff.

In a speech, Musa said: Christopher's presence gives us a chance to welcome him, especially at this important stage in which we are working to end the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

Musa said he was happy to be joining the U.S. secretary of state and representatives of the Palestinian people in celebrating the delivery of the first American contribution to the Palestinian police. The celebration indicates that all parties are ready to put the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles into practice, he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said he was glad to return to Egypt. I am looking forward to meeting President Mubarak again and also 'Amr Musa, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, he said.

He added that he was happy with the arrival of the first American contribution to the Palestinian police. The police, he said, will be a basic factor in implementing the Declaration of Principles. He said the United States is sure of this and will help the Palestinian police force perform its duty in Gaza and Jericho.

Christopher pointed out that the American assistance includes 200 vehicles and spare parts, 100 pickup trucks, 50 personnel carriers, and 50 bulldozers. He said the rest of the equipment will arrive in the next few weeks.

Christopher said the donation, which also includes 2,300 blankets and 1,800 pair of shoes, shows that the implementation is taking place. It is also a good sign that the Israelis and the Palestinians are moving ahead with the negotiations to reach agreement for peace in the region, he said.

During the implementation, Christopher noted, the tragedy can be forgotten and the creation of a new climate based on mutual respect can be started. This step will be the response to attempts by the extremists to harm peace, he added.

He thanked the Israeli Government for giving the donor states the chance to provide assistance to the Palestinian police.

He also thanked and hailed President Husni Mubarak for his important role in the peace process and the implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

In conclusion, Christopher said he hoped the Palestinians would use the equipment to achieve its objective of bringing about peace and reconciliation in the region.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th delivered a speech. On behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian police, he thanked the United States and Christopher for their valuable assistance. He noted the importance of that assistance for implementing the agreement, which is expected to be signed soon, on the entry of the police force to Gaza and Jericho.

Sha'th said: We will remember 13 September 1993, the day the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was signed, and will remember that two weeks later, the U.S. President invited the donor states to meet. Those states pledged to provide $2.4 billion to the Palestinian authority to implement the agreement.

He added: As a representative of the Palestinians, who for a long time lacked peace and freedom, I would like to emphasize that these vehicles will be used to ensure security for the Palestinians so that they can work in peace to build their homeland, of which they are proud.

He stressed that the Palestinian police will respect human rights, freedom, and democracy, and will serve as a factor of peace and stability to ensure the well-being of the Palestinian people.

Sha'th thanked President Mubarak and the Egyptian people for Egypt's great support for the Palestinian people, backing of the Palestinian negotiators, and help in deploying the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho.

He also thanked Norway for its role and the U.S. secretary of state, who came to deliver the assistance. He stressed the Palestinians' pledge to achieve the peace that serves the Palestinian people and the peoples of the region.

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo

NC2804053894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

He was received at the airport by Assistant Foreign Ministers Badr Hammam and Husni al-'Ujayzi and the Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Christopher, Musa, 'Arafat Confer

NC2804094394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Christopher arrived in Cairo from Saudi Arabia last night as part of his tour of the region.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived at the Foreign Ministry leading a delegation and joined the

meeting between Musa and Christopher. They will discuss ways to remove the latest obstacles blocking the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Accord between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The delegation accompanying 'Arafat includes the head of the Palestinian side at the Gaza-Jericho talks, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Marwan Kanafani.

Christopher, 'Arafat News Conference

NC2804121894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has announced that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho are making progress and that the two sides are closer to reaching an agreement.

The secretary of state said: I want to affirm our wish to complete this stage so that we can embark on implementing the agreement and then administer daily affairs in Gaza and Jericho for the first time. This can be compared with what is happening in South Africa.

These remarks came during a joint news conference Christopher and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held following their meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today.

Christopher stated that those who wanted to hamper and ruin the peace march had no better alternatives. During my meeting with Chairman 'Arafat, I found common ground for moving ahead, he said.

Noting the talks' progress, Christopher said that this was manifested with the arrival of the first group of vehicles donated by his country to the Palestinian police force. He pointed out that this is only part of what the donor states have promised to offer.

I congratulate Chairman 'Arafat and the negotiating Palestinian delegation on what they have achieved on the basic points. This demonstrates their determination to get over the tragic incidents and shows the need to implement the agreement, Christopher said.

He added: We want to emphasize again the need to move ahead. The reports I have received from the concerned parties over the past six months have encouraged me.

Christopher reiterated the U.S. determination to encourage the parties to proceed to the next stage. We want to be here and to do what we can to get closer to the implementation stage, he said.

Speaking at the news conference, 'Arafat expressed the hope of reaching an agreement within the framework of the comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis on the various tracks. We hope we will overcome the obstacles that still hinder a Palestinian-Israeli agreement, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat expressed his appreciation of the role President Mubarak and Egypt played to support the peace process. He also thanked U.S. President Bill Clinton for assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and aiding the Palestinian police.

At the end of the joint news conference, 'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinians will be fully prepared to sign an agreement on implementing the Gaza-Jericho Agreement once the obstacles hindering it are eliminated. He added that it is the other side that is responsible for placing these obstacles.

Mubarak Meets With 'Arafat

NC2804122394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this afternoon received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis. The two leaders discussed recent developments in the Middle East and current efforts to stimulate the peace process.

Peres, Delegation Arrive

NC2804090594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his accompanying delegation, including Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, and the deputy chief of staff, General Amnon Shahaq, arrived in Cairo this morning.

In an arrival statement Peres expressed the hope that the Israeli-Palestinians talks would succeed. He said he would discuss the issues of security in the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the control of the crossing points. He added that it is difficult to say that this will be the last round of talks and noted that no progress has been made on the Syrian track.

Musa Comments on Peres Meeting

NC2804110994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Commenting on the Egyptian-U.S. talks, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the talks dealt with several issues, including all tracks of the Middle East peace process, regional problems—such as Somalia and Bosnia, and bilateral relations.

In his statement following his meeting today with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Musa said the final measures to implement the Gaza-Jericho Agreement will be signed the first week of May.

Regarding the situation in Bosnia, he stated that Egypt supports NATO's recent measures to strike the Serbs if they continue their aggression or if they violate the decision to withdraw their forces 20 km from Gorazde.

Musa added that the formation of the United Nations committee on Bosnia-Herzegovina marks a step forward, because questions had arisen concerning some of the proposals made by some of the mediators.

He said President Mubarak has sent Ambassador Badr Hammam, assistant foreign minister for Arab and Middle East affairs, to Yemen to contact the Yemeni president and vice president. Hammam is carrying a message from President Mubarak following yesterday's contact made by the president with the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Musa, Peres on Signing of Agreement

NC2804110494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that there has been progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, contacts were made today, and others will be made when President Husni Mubarak receives U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Peres following their talks here today, Musa said: Egypt is willing to host the signing of the agreement any time, and the date of its signing will be set very soon.

Shim'on Peres said: It will be possible to identify the remaining problems at the end of today's talks. We are still working to resolve the main points of dispute. We will set the date for signing the agreement when these issues are resolve. He added: If we reach an accord, then this agreement could be signed in an hour. But if there is no agreement, it might take a year.

Peres stressed that Egypt is playing a responsible and very wise role in the negotiating process and that there is no doubt the Middle East region is fortunate to have Egypt playing a role, one that we fully appreciate.

'Arafat Greets Mubarak on Sinai Liberation Day

NC2704115694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat praised the fraternal, continuous, and firm support of the Egyptian Government and people under the leadership of President Mubarak for the Palestinian people's just cause and national struggle to effect a durable and just peace in Palestine and the region.

In a congratulatory message to President Mubarak on the 12th anniversary of Sinai's liberation, 'Arafat praised Egypt's support for the Palestinian people's struggle to end Israeli occupation, preserve their holy places, and retrieve and exercise their inalienable national rights.

U.S. Urged Not To Confront Russia Over Bosnia

NC2704071994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says that developments in the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue indicate the failure of the U.S. plan to increase pressure on the Serbs by normalizing relations between the Muslims and Croats and pushing them into a confederation which the Serbs would later be compelled to join.

In today's editorial, the paper notes that since an agreement was signed between the Muslims and Croats in Washington in March, fighting between the Muslims and Serbs has intensified, and it seems obvious that NATO's ability to intervene militarily against the Bosnian Serbs has limitations.

The paper says the Russian Federation foiled the first ultimatum by deploying its forces on the hills above Sarajevo, while the Serbs foiled the second ultimatum by signing an accord with the United Nations on a withdrawal from Gorazde. Before they withdrew, however, they burned most of the city.

The paper concludes that it is necessary for the international community, represented by the United Nations and the European Union, to agree on a formula acceptable to the three parties by which they will return to the negotiating table in order to produce a cease-fire and then unconditionally discuss solutions.

The newspaper expresses its belief that the arena must not be left for the United States to use as a guinea pig to test its relations with the Russian Federation.

Columnist Views Proposed Halt in U.S. Aid

NC2604192194 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 4

[From the "Questions" column by 'Abdallah Nassar]

[Text] Lee Hamilton, chairman of the U.S. Congress' Foreign Relations Committee, has announced that economic aid to Egypt will continue for one, two, or perhaps three more years. His opinion reflects debates going on in several U.S. circles concerning foreign aid to various countries. Because of pressure, the volume of foreign aid is being reduced annually, because U.S. taxpayers believe the aid serves no purpose now that the Cold War is over.

The United States can choose any policy it wants. Any attempts to influence it will not work because they care about the interests of the U.S. citizen. However, why did the announcement that aid to Egypt will stop in three years at most coincide with U.S. attempts to block Egyptian exports to U.S. markets? Egypt is capable of continuing its economic reform measures without U.S. aid. If we shed some light on this issue, we find that the

United States, its employees, and companies have greatly benefited from this aid and even shared some of it.

How can we prepare ourselves for the end of this aid? We can, if we mobilize our enormous capabilities in various areas, improve our products, encourage Egyptians to invest their money and work harder, and grant preferential treatment by the state to Egyptian investors, citizens, and businessmen.

No country in the world can exist without cooperating with other countries, but this cooperation must be governed by rules and conditions, so that no party may benefit at the expense of another and no party may impose arbitrary terms or restrictions, and this is what we should expect from now on. Aid does not build a homeland, and Egypt is rich in resources and people.

Mubarak Approached by Yemeni Leaders

Receives Phone Call From Salih

NC2504204794 Cairo MENA in English 1948 GMT 25 Apr 94

Cairo, April 25 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening received a phone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The two leaders reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest in the light of President Mubarak's recent tour of the Gulf region and his talks with the Gulf heads of state.

Warns Against Confrontation

NC2704152894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asked the Yemeni leaders to exercise self-restraint and to avoid intensifying the problems in Yemen. He warned of the gravity of any escalation in the situation and any acts of violence.

Mubarak made this statement during two telephone calls he received this afternoon from Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He told Salih and al-Bid that confrontation between Yemeni brothers and forces will be detrimental to Yemeni interests and will threaten the country's security, stability, and unity of its sons. He called for settling their differences through dialogue and reason.

Sends Envoy To Reconcile Parties

NC2804083894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0756 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak sent Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Badr Hammam to Yemen on an urgent mission today. His task is to hold contacts and exert every effort to contain the worsening situation, reconcile the parties concerned, and create a favorable climate for discussing differences constructively.

Libyan Justice Minister Meets With Sidqi

LD2704211894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi this morning held a meeting with the brother secretary general of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security, currently on a visit to Egypt to take part in the meetings of the 10th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice.

During the meeting, the two sides looked into and discussed projects of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt in various areas, as well as the topics to be submitted to the next session of the Arab-Libyan-Egyptian Higher Committee, to be held in Cairo early next June.

Opposition Party Leaders Issue Statement on Dialogue

NC2604123394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Apr 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] On 20 April Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri handed Dr. Yusuf Wali, agriculture minister and secretary general of the National Democratic Party [NDP], a statement by the opposition parties and political forces.

The leaders of the opposition parties issued a statement on 14 April concerning a political dialogue and asked the Labor Party leader to hand it to the NDP secretary general.

The statement says that political reform should be at the top of the agenda of a national dialogue and that all opposition forces should take part in preparations for this dialogue. The statement also calls for guarantees for fair elections and for revising laws obstructing the establishment of a democratic society, noting that terrorism will recede if democracy is achieved.

The statement also calls for a solution to the economic and social problems that beset ordinary people.

The following is the text of this statement:

A. When President Husni Mubarak issued a call for national dialogue at a session of the People's Assembly marking Mubarak's reelection for a third term, leaders of the opposition parties and political forces met and unanimously agreed to welcome a dialogue in principle, viewing the president's call as an answer to their repeated requests for cooperation and solidarity in finding the best solutions to the country's problems. The opposition leaders also examined the principles ensuring the seriousness of the dialogue and issued a statement including their views, which they presented to the president and released to the public.

B. In later exchanges between the NDP and opposition representatives, it became clear that the NDP agrees with most of the opposition's statement.

C. This was followed by quite a long period in which there were no exchanges and no particular steps were taken to prepare for the conference on a national dialogue.

D. Following a recent meeting of the NDP General Secretariat, which was chaired by President Mubarak, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced a decision by the NDP Secretariat to invite a 25-member committee to prepare for the national dialogue conference.

E. On 14 April, leaders of the opposition parties and political forces who signed the aforesaid agreement met to look into the developments since their previous meeting, and reached the following conclusions:

1. The conferees, once again, state their commitment to the statement they issued at their last meeting, in which they stressed that political reform should be the top priority of a national dialogue. They also stressed the importance of the participation of all the opposition forces in preparing for the dialogue. There is a particular need to guarantee the probity of elections and to reconsider laws that impede the establishment of democracy. Democracy will weaken the wave of terror and help resolve the country's economic and social problems that haunt the lives of ordinary citizens.

2. A dialogue can only be conducted in a spirit of equality. Therefore, the opposition leaders request to have a part in naming the members of the preparatory committee for the national dialogue conference. They believe that the rules governing the dialogue should be formulated in agreement among the participants in that dialogue.

3. The signatories of this statement wish to note the importance of providing a healthy atmosphere for national dialogue through the following steps:

a. Ending the arbitrary measures that are being taken against journalists of opposition papers; and

b. Refraining from passing laws or making decisions that interfere with national political life, such as the amendment of the village mayors' law and the extension of the state of emergency by three years. The latter move, made only two months before the expiration of the Emergency Law, could have been delayed until the national dialogue had its say.

We implore Almighty God to guide us all toward what is best for the nation.

Islamic Group Vows To Kill Mubarak

NC2704100[illegible]4 Paris AFP in English 0807 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 27 (AFP)—The Moslem militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah on Wednesday [27 April] vowed to kill President Husni Mubarak to avenge the death of its military leader. Police said they gunned down 32-year-old Tal'at Yasin Hammam, head of the group's armed wing, and six other militants in a dawn raid Monday on his apartment in northeast Cairo.

In a statement sent to AFP, al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (the Islamic Group) warned Mubarak, saying: "Your head, as well as those of hundreds of torturers in the Interior (Ministry), will not be enough for our revenge."

It mocked the government's effectiveness in fighting militants, saying Hammam used to plan his operations from a building located "a few meters (yards) from the general intelligence offices" in central Cairo. Hammam "dealt one blow after the other" to the regime, the statement said.

The Egyptian authorities said Hammam was, among other things, in charge of sending statements to foreign press agencies.

Around 380 have been killed in the two years since the militants launched their violent campaign to topple Mubarak and install an Iranian-style Islamic republic. The dead include 134 policemen and 135 militants.

Experts said the killing of Hammam will be only a temporary setback to the fundamentalists.

'Abd-al-Rahman, Others Sentenced to Hard Labor

NC2804115894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court-Emergency issued a ruling today in the case of the al-Fayyum rioting. It sentenced the following five defendants to seven years of hard labor: 'Umar Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, 'Ali al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Jayyid, Naji Sayyid 'Abdallah, Nabil 'Ali Jum'ah, and Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid Muhammad.

The court also sentenced 16 defendants to five years of hard labor and five other defendants to three years of hard labor. It acquitted 21 defendants and dropped criminal cases against two defendants because they had died.

Morocco

Results of Parliamentary, Local By-Elections

LD2804111494

[Editorial Report] Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic at 2030 GMT on 27 April broadcasts a seven-minute statement by the minister of state for interior and information on the parliamentary and local by-elections held on 26 April.

The statement notes: "On Tuesday 26 April 1994, parliamentary and local by-elections were held to fill some vacant seats in the House of Representatives and in a number of local constituencies. These elections, which took place in a calm atmosphere marked by enthusiasm, competitiveness, and responsibility, gave the following results that were announced by the polling stations and the provincial sorting committees:

"1. The parliamentary by-elections: These by-elections were held in 14 constituencies, spread over 13 departments and provinces.

"Total number of candidates: 86; in other words, over six candidates for every seat.

"Turnout: between 29.28 percent and 72.41 percent, with a general average of 53.23 percent.

"Total number of votes cast: 326,241, shared by the various political parties as follows:

"Candidates of the Entente obtained 100,125 votes, which represents 31.11 percent of the total number of votes cast. Out of this, 80,550 votes went to the candidates of the Constitutional Union; 12,113 to the Popular Movement; and 8,857 to the National Democratic Party.

"Candidates of the Union obtained 74,008 votes, representing 22.68 percent of the total number of votes cast. Out of this, 38,536 votes went to the candidates of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces and 35,472 to the Istiqlal Party candidates.

"The Party of Progress and Socialism obtained 44,450 votes, representing 13.62 percent of the votes cast. The National Rally of Independents obtained 44,378 votes, representing 13.60 percent. The National Popular Movement obtained 22,964 votes, representing 7.04 percent. The Choura and Istiqlal Party obtained 19,268 votes, representing 5.91 percent. The Action Party obtained 7,784 votes, representing 2.39 percent. The Organization for Popular and Democratic Action obtained 3,864 votes, representing 1.18 percent.

"Independent candidates obtained 8,005 votes, representing 2.45 percent of the votes cast."

The statement goes on to announce the winners in these by-elections as follows:

Mr. Mohamed Mouhtadi (Constitutional Union), Mr. Hussein Belagtou (Party of Progress and Socialism), Mr. Mohamed Boulasri (National Rally of Independents), Mr. Bensalem Oulghazi (Istiqlal Party), Mr. Ahmed Zaidi (Socialist Union of Popular Forces), Mr. Tihami Khiyari (Party of Progress and Socialism), Mr. Mohamed Taybi (Istiqlal Party), Mr. Abderrahmane Hejira (Istiqlal Party), Mr. Ahmed Ait El Hadj (Choura and Istiqlal Party), Mr. Ahmed Amhal (Constitiutional Union), Mr. Mohamed Arsalane (Popular Movement), Mr. Omar Bouaida (National Rally of Independents), Mr. Hassan Yamani (Constitutional Union), Mr. Mohamed Simlali (Socialist Union of Popular Forces).

The statement then gives results of local by-elections as follows:

—Number of constituencies: 208, spread over 173 localities, including 26 municipalities and 147 rural localities, all affiliated to 48 departments and provinces.
—Total number of candidates: 543, in other words nearly three candidates for every seat.
—Turnout: 61,758 cast their votes out of 94,016 registered voters, representing an average turnout of 65.69 percent.

Results obtained by each party were:
—Istiqlal Party: 7,537 votes, representing 13.12 percent of the total number of votes cast.
—National Rally of Independents: 6,480 votes, representing 11.28 percent of the total number of votes cast.
—Popular Movement: 4,927 votes, representing 8.58 percent.
—Constitutional Union: 4,344 votes, representing 7.56 percent.
—Socialist Union of Popular Forces: 4,058 votes, representing 7.07 percent.
—National Democratic Party: 3,455 votes, representing 6.02 per cent.
—Party of Progress and Socialism: 2,704 votes, representing 4.71 percent.
—National Popular Movement: 2,217 votes, representing 3.86 percent.
—Action Party: 745 votes, representing 1.30 percent.
—Organization for Popular and Democratic Action: 309 votes, representing 0.54 percent.
—Choura and Istiqlal Party: 87 votes, representing 0.15 percent.
—Independent candidates: 20,566 votes, representing 35.81 percent of the total number of votes cast.

The statement notes that the 208 local council seats contested are distributed as follows:

—National Rally of Independents: 28 seats.
—Istiqlal Party: 23 seats.
—Popular Movement: 23 seats.
—Constitutional Union: 15 seats.
—National Democratic Party: 11 seats.
—Socialist Union of Popular Forces: nine seats.
—Party of Progress and Socialism: seven seats.
—National Popular Movement: seven seats.
—Action Party: three seats.
—Independent candidates: 82 seats.

Iragi Envoy Concludes Visit

LD2704134994 Rabat M.P in English 1247 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Casablanca, Apr. 27 (MAP)—Iraqi envoy Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti left Morocco Tuesday [26 April] at the end of a few day visit during which he conveyed to King Hassan II a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi official told the media he explained to the sovereign Iraq's standpoint and informed him on the developments of Iraq's relations with the international community and the United Nations.

Sudan

Minister Reacts to U.S. Embassy Statement on Rights

EA2604185494 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Apr (SUNA)—Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu has again stressed Sudan's firm commitment to human rights, in conformity with the nation's faith and current orientation. Shiddu responded to a statement issued by the U.S. Embassy last week, in today's issue of AL-INQADH AL-WATANI. Shiddu stated: We know all our responsibilities and do not need guidance on this issue. He declared the government's rejection of the United States' evil deeds against Sudan both inside and outside the country.

The U.S. Embassy claimed that Amnesty International's findings, which confirm that Sudan's human rights record is much better than that of the United States, Great Britain, and Israel, were not correct. The U.S. Embassy statement referred to alleged human rights violations in Sudan, and urged the government to take what it called serious steps to stop these violations.

Statement Issued on Abduction of Ambassador to Somalia

EA2704195094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The Sudanese ambassador to Somalia, 'Abd-al-Baqi Muhammad Hasan Ahmad, was released in Mogadishu today after continuous negotiations with his abductors, Foreign Ministry officials, and relevant organs. Four armed people abducted the ambassador on 19 April. This act was strongly condemned in all quarters, especially by the leaders of the tribe to which the abductors belong, and who exerted an appreciable effort obtain the ambassador's release.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement issued today, commended all those who contributed to the release of Ambassador 'Abd-al-Baqi, particularly all concerned Somali organizations and groups. The statement also praised the role played by the Sudanese ambassador in Mogadishu, under very complicated circumstances. The Foreign Ministry confirmed that this unexpected crisis would not affect the firm relations that bind the Sudanese and Somali peoples. The statement confirmed that the Government of Sudan would continue to offer all it could to contribute to achieving security, stability and development in Somalia.

Foreign Minister Meets With British Envoy

EA2704192594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih received in Khartoum in his office at noon today the British charge d'affaires. Bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and developing them, were discussed at the meeting.

The charge d'affaires reaffirmed the British Government's support for the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development initiative to establish peace in the country. He said Britain did not recognize anything other than the present borders of Sudan, nor did it give any consideration to declarations by the rebel John Garang about what he called the modern Sudan.

Minister Discusses Peace Talks With Kenyan Envoy

EA2704174794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih today held discussions in his office at the ministry with the Kenyan ambassador on preparations for the coming round of peace negotiations, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 16 May. Dr. Abu-Salih assured the Kenyan ambassador of Sudan's eagerness to establish peace in the south within the framework of a unified Sudan, without becoming a pawn of foreign forces. He expressed his hope that the forthcoming Nairobi round would be decisive, and that the rebel movement would come with clear views to assist in solving the problem.

The meeting touched on Kenyan-Sudanese relations. The two sides confirmed their eagerness to strengthen and develop those relations.

Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih also met today with Mr. Peter Hansen, UN assistant secretary general for humanitarian affairs, who is currently visiting the country. Dr. Abu-Waf, minister of state at the ministry of social planning, and Mr. Ali Muhammad Yasin, Sudan's delegate to the United Nations, were also present. The meeting dealt with issues connected with humanitarian conditions. Dr. Abu-Salih affirmed Sudan's cooperation with all those working in the humanitarian field to deliver food to the citizens in all areas affected by the war, via Operation Lifeline.

Saudi Arabia

Christopher Meets With GCC Leaders in Riyadh

LD2704095294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0849 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Riyadh, 27 April (KUNA)--U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will this afternoon hold a meeting here with his counterparts from the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and the situation in the Gulf. The U.S. secretary of state arrived here early this morning preceded by the GCC foreign ministers who had arrived here late last night. Christopher is due to meet with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, today before leaving for Cairo to complete his Middle East tour.

The GCC foreign ministers held a meeting here last night in preparation for the talks which they will hold with Christopher today. Sources from the meeting told KUNA that at the short meeting held at the airport the agenda for the meeting [with Christopher] prepared by the GCC general secretariat was reviewed.

Official political sources said that during their short meeting the ministers discussed the agenda of topics to be discussed with the U.S. secretary of state during the meeting to be held at the GCC general secretariat at noon today which will be followed by a joint news conference by Christopher and his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who received the GCC foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said that the meeting will focus on three issues [as received]: namely developments in the Middle East peace process, and the need for the co-sponsors of the peace conference—particularly the United States—to exert greater efforts to overcome the obstacles facing the process. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added that the meeting will also discuss the situation and developments in the Gulf region and the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Sources expected that the meeting, which is taking place within Christopher's tour of the region, will focus on giving impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, the situation in the Gulf, and the Arab boycott of Israel.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Calls From Yemen's Salih, al-Bid

JN2804080094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received two telephone calls, one from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and another from Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The conversations dealt with the acts of violence which took place between Yemeni forces in northern Sanaa today.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid called on the Yemeni president and vice president to exert every possible effort to contain the armed confrontation between the sons of the one people, to exercise self-restraint and patience, and to prevent the use of violence to solve the Yemeni crisis. He also called for adopting the principle of dialogue and reconciliation as the only means to end the Yemeni crisis and to stabilize the situation there.

Yemen

1st Armored Division Reportedly Launches Offensive

Salih's Stepbrother Said To Lead Attack

NC2704154894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1533 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Aden, 27 Apr (MENA)—A responsible source at the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Information Center has stated that at 1100 today the 1st Armored Division led by Colonel 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, stepbrother of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, backed by other brigades brought in from Sanaa, launched an offensive.

The Yemeni source said that these forces launched a large-scale offensive with various types of weapons against the 2nd Armored Brigade, deployed in 'Imran, which receives its orders from the defense minister. The source added that pitched battles involving the use of heavy weapons are still raging this afternoon.

The source said that the aggression against the southern brigade took place directly after President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih delivered a speech in al-Sab'ayn Square in Sanaa today to mark the 27 April occasion. In his speech, he called for removing the YSP from power. The source noted that the military escalation of the situation on this large a scale throughout Yemen will block the success of the mediation efforts being made to resolve the crisis peacefully. The YSP holds President Salih personally, and members of his family who occupy important posts in the military establishment, as the source put it, responsible for the grave consequences that may result from this offensive.

U.S., French Attaches Fired On in Camp

NC2704192794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1852 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Apr (MENA)—A Yemeni military source in Sanaa today accused the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] of causing the military situation in Yemen. In a statement this evening, the source said that at 1330 today while the military committee, accompanied by the U.S. and French military attaches, was visiting the 1st Armored Brigade and the 3d Armored Brigade in the 'Imran Camp in Sanaa Governorate, armed groups led by YSP member Yahya Dahish 'Alyan, an "old officer

expelled from the Armed Forces," stormed the camp and began firing various small-, medium-, and large-caliber weapons as well as tank, artillery, and rocket fire. The source pointed out that the bombardment targeted the headquarters of the 1st Armored Brigade, the soldiers barracks, the central security camp nearby, and residential areas in the city of 'Imran.

The source said that the intensive bombardment caused heavy losses in lives and property. Dozens of people were martyred and others were injured, but the casualty toll has not been determined. The Yemeni military source expressed his regret for this incident. He said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih followed up on the situation from the very beginning and immediately issued instructions to the defense minister and the general chief of staff to quickly contain the situation and prevent any military deterioration.

Military Committee on Camp 'Incident'

NC2704202994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Apr (MENA)—The joint military committee entrusted to control the situation and prevent friction between Yemeni forces regrets the 'Imran Camp incident between military units from north and south Yemen that occurred north of Sanaa this afternoon.

In a statement this evening, the committee said it will continue its mission to maintain the cease-fire and will work to restore reassurance to the personnel in the camp.

The committee urged the forces in 'Imran Camp to demonstrate patience and self-restraint, and it called on the Yemeni Armed Forces not to heed those who try to ignite sedition among the sons of the unified homeland.

The committee discussed the circumstances of the clashes that took place in the camp while it was visiting at noon today. It did not blame one side or the other.

The committee said it visited the camp accompanied by the two commanders of the two brigades (one from the north and one from the south) and noticed that everybody was in a state of high tension and that the engines of the tanks and military vehicles of both sides were in a state of readiness.

It was agreed that the engines be stopped and that everyone would go to lunch, the committee said. During this, it added, three gunshots from an unidentified source were heard. This was followed by heavy machine-gun fire and later by fire from tanks and all types of weapons coming from all directions.

The statement said the committee managed with extreme difficulty to leave the camp by going in different directions.

Military Committee Issues Communique

JN2704205494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The joint military committee has issued the following communique:

At a time when the joint military committee was making a field visit to the camp of the 1st and 3d Armored Brigades in 'Imran, which it reached at 1200 yesterday, and after meeting with the commanders of the two brigades and making a field tour of the camp, accompanied by the two brigades' commanders, the committee noted that all were in a state of maximum tension. The engines of tanks and vehicles were running. The committee reached an understanding and agreement with the commanders to switch off the engines of the tanks and vehicles. All went for lunch, after which the committee was to meet again with the commanders of the two brigades. Afterward, the committee was to meet with the personnel and officers of the two brigades to talk to them and calm them down. While the brother members of the committee were having lunch with the commanders at the officer hall and at around 1400, three shots were heard from an automatic machine gun. The source of the shots was not known. However, somebody fired them in the air. At the same time, gunfire was heard from a heavy machine gun after which shells were fired by the tanks in the camp, as well as all other kinds of weapons in all directions. It was with extreme difficulty that the military committee managed to leave the camp from various directions.

The joint military committee has informed the political leadership in Sanaa and Aden of the incident. It also met with a number of dignitaries, notables, and citizens in the region. Afterward, everybody headed in the direction of the fighting units. Loudspeakers were used to convey the appeal made by the chairman of the Presidential Council and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council, the defense minister, the chairman of the General Staff, and the members of the military committee, for an immediate cease-fire.

The military committee demanded that all vehicles and tanks remain in their positions until tomorrow morning.

While expressing its regret for this regrettable incident, the military committee will pursue its mission to keep the cease-fire and work collectively to instill once again reassurance in the hearts of the officers, noncommissioned officers, and personnel in the 'Imran Camp. The committee appeals to all of them to exercise self-restraint and demonstrate patience and wisdom. It also appeals to all members of the Armed Forces to deny any chance to those who are trying to ignite sedition between the sons of the one homeland and to work to restore confidence to enhance national unity.

Defense Ministry: Units Moving Toward 'Imran

NC2704210494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Aden, 27 Apr (MENA)—An official Yemeni Defense Ministry spokesman in Aden has said that a large-scale military campaign is moving toward 'Imran Camp (which witnessed clashes between northern and southern units today) to besiege the 3d Armored Brigade (southern) despite telephone appeals to the chairman of the Presidential Council and the chief of staff for a cease-fire.

The spokesman said in a statement tonight that the campaign does not only target the "steadfast" brigade but seeks to push Yemen into a devastating war.

The spokesman warned "those who play with fire" against such acts and demanded an immediate halt to the fighting against the 3d Armored Brigade. The spokesman appealed to the joint military committee to investigate the incidents and condemn those responsible for them.

'Scores' Reportedly Killed, Wounded

JN2804074094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] A military source at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff command has made the following statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA':

At 1400 yesterday, Wednesday, the same time the military committee and the U.S. and French military attaches were visiting the 1st Armored Brigade and the 3d Armored Brigade at the 'Imran Camp in Sanaa Governorate—as part of a tour of various military units and formations in the various Yemeni camps being made in an attempt to end the military repercussions and remove any form of tension and to pave the way for the implementation of the military section of the pledge and accord document—the tanks and armored vehicles of the 3d Armored Brigade suddenly and treacherously opened fire on the headquarters of the 1st Armored Brigade and the soldiers' barracks, as well as the dining hall in which the personnel of the 1st Armored Brigade were eating, in addition to the nearby central security camp and the citizens' residential areas in the city of 'Imran. This action resulted in a large number of human and material losses, including scores of martyrs and innocent victims. Their numbers have not yet been determined.

The source strongly regretted this deplorable criminal act which was planned and implemented at the orders of the forces of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party to exploit the situation militarily and implement their secessionist plan which seeks to fragment the country, foment sedition among the sons of the one homeland, and implicate the sons of the valiant Armed Forces in fratricide and a bloody, destructive conflict which benefits no one except warmongers and enemies of the Yemeni homeland, its unity, and its democratic course.

The source said it was no coincidence that this new military situation was triggered on 27 April, the same day our Yemeni people throughout Yemen were celebrating the day of democracy and legislative legitimacy, on this day marking the passage of one year of the people's free election of the first elected parliament under the banner of a unified Yemen. The renegade, secessionist forces saw on this day a setback for their failed dreams and aims for a comprehensive hegemony. This is what our Yemeni people rejected with great resolve when the Yemeni homeland restored its cherished unity on 22 May 1990. April 27, 1993 was the historic day on which our Yemeni people triumphed through their own free will in electing their representatives at the House of Representatives and established their legitimate constitutional institutions, which the separatist forces are trying to attack and marginalize as part of their scheme to fragment the homeland and restore the pre-22 May 1990 situation. The source indicated that such a criminal act is part of a series of plots concocted by the forces or apostasy and secession, which began with exploding the situation in Abyan on the eve of signing the pledge and accord document in Amman, capital of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdon of Jordan, when they planned to transfer a military brigade from al-Mukalla in Hadramaut to the Abyan Governorate, send a tank battalion from Aden to Abyan, and move units from the 5th Brigade to Abyan. They also instructed the 30th Brigade to move from Shabwah in the direction of Abyan. The aim was to disavow commitment to the pledge and accord document under the pretext of a militarily explosive situation. This is a clear indication of the premeditated secessionist intentions of the forces of apostasy and secession in fragmenting the homeland.

The source said brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has been following the situation closely. He issued his immediate instructions to the brother defense minister and the chief of staff to quickly contain the situation and stop any possible military repercussions in order to foil the plans of the secessionist forces and enemies of the homeland and its unity. He also instructed the military committee to quickly investigate the incident and its implications. The source voiced confidence that the sons of the valiant Yemeni Armed Forces, well known by our Yemeni people as protectors of the homeland and a shield for the revolution, unity, and democracy, will live up to the confidence our people have placed in them. They will foil such criminal schemes by the forces of apostasy and secession. They will also be lying in wait for anyone who dares to harm the homeland's gains, headed by unity and democracy.

The source also appealed to the military committee to continue its efforts to stop all clashes and military

actions in 'Imran Camp to spare Yemeni blood and foil the plans aimed at implicating the sons of the Yemeni homeland in fratricide, conflict, and the fragmentation of the homeland. He called on the military committee to quickly investigate the regrettable incident, expose those responsible for it, and inform the Yemeni people both inside and outside the country about what really happened. The source called on our Yemeni masses and military and security forces to show vigilance, awareness, and national cohesion in order to confront the schemes of the forces hostile to unity and democracy in our country, those which seek to fragment the homeland and foment sedition among its people.

Army Units Reportedly Resume Battles

JN2804104694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] It has been learned from a political source in Sanaa that battles between army units in the 'Imran area, north of the Yemeni capital resumed, this morning. The battles, in which armored vehicles and guns were used, resumed after the failure of a cease-fire between these opposing units, some of which are loyal to north Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and others to his southern rival Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Yesterday's battles, which erupted in the same area, resumed strongly at dawn today. According to north and south Yemeni sources, the battles are still raging. No figures on casualties have been announced. Yesterday, sources said scores of people from both sides were killed or wounded, in addition to civilian casualties.

Number of Killed, Wounded Reported

NC2804154594 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, April 28 (AFP)—Fighting between Yemeni Army factions has killed more than 100 people and wounded 200 in the past two days, a team of Yemeni journalists who visited the scene said Thursday [28 April].

The dead included 18 civilians. More than 85 tanks had been destroyed in the fighting between northern and southern armoured units north of Sanaa, according to the team, who included journalists from the independent Yemen Times.

Salih Confers with U.S., French Envoys on Incident

JN2804145994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has received Arthur Hughes, the U.S. ambassador to our country. They discussed various issues of interest to bilateral relations. They also discussed developments in the situation in our country in light of the regrettable events at the 'Imran camp.

The brother chairman expressed profound regret and sorrow for the chaste Yemeni blood spilled as result of the reckless practices of some irresponsible elements. He said these practices aim to implement hostile designs to push the situation toward a military explosion, to circumvent the pledge and accord document, and to drive the people and their Armed Forces into the furnace of bloody fighting in order to destroy unity. He stressed there is no alternative to unity, democracy, security, and stability, no matter what the price. He expressed appreciation for the U.S. friends' interest in our country's security and stability and for their support for unity and democracy.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council also received French Ambassador (Marcel Levin). They reviewed bilateral relations and the efforts being exerted to contain the crisis in light of the regrettable military developments and incidents in 'Imran yesterday.

The brother chairman stressed his eagerness to contain the situation and thwart all designs to stir up sedition and infighting among the children of the same homeland. He said dialogue and resorting to reason and wisdom are the only way to tackle all issues and problems. He expressed appreciation for France's efforts to support our country and its unity and democratization.

Salih, al-Bid Receive Messages From Mubarak

NC2704212494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Apr (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak urging the Yemeni parties to stop the clashes and avoid a military confrontation to prevent shedding Yemeni blood.

The message was delivered by Egyptian Ambassador in Sanaa 'Ata Mahmud Harun when the Yemeni president received him this evening.

President Mubarak called for dialogue among the parties to the conflict and for a halt to violence to preserve Yemeni unity.

The Egyptian ambassador also telephoned Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid this evening to convey a similar message from President Mubarak.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2052 GMT on 27 April, in another Sanaa-datelined item, reports that the Yemeni foreign minister received a similar message from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa delivered by the Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa.]

Salih Address on Elections Day Rally Reported

JN2704150094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpts] To celebrate 27 April Day, the immortal day of democracy in the life and history of our people [first anniversary of first legislative elections in Yemen], a grand popular speech rally was held today in 70 Square in Sanaa, the capital of the revolution and the unity. The celebration was held in an atmosphere of overflowing national zeal streaming from the depth of the Yemeni people's national conscience, faith in God almighty, confidence in the present and future, and awareness of the importance of the Yemeni revolution and the blessed unity. [passage omitted]

Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, attended the grand popular speech rally. He delivered an important national speech. Addressing the masses who assembled in 70 Square, brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: This day last year, our people, men and women, throughout the governorates of the Republic of Yemen orderly headed for the polls to elect their representatives to the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

The brother chairman said: We stress to the masses of our people that we will not agree to seeing the role of the legislative institution—the House of Representatives—marginalized. We call on the representatives of the Yemeni people—being above parties and narrow party affiliations—to exercise their Constitutional tasks without hesitation, for they are the representatives of the Yemeni nation. Our Yemeni people struggled before and after the revolution until we arrived at 27 April, the day when the first parliament in the history of unified Yemen was elected. I call on state officials to respect the nation and to head for the Constitutional institutions in order to take the Constitutional oath and to exercise their tasks. Any practices outside Constitutional institutions or the Constitution will be considered illegitimate. For over nine months, our Yemeni people have been suffering a great deal as a result of a grueling and suffocating crisis. It is a crisis for which some have been paid filthy money—the same money that once tried to abort the revolution and now tries to abort unity and democracy. However, it is a bet on a losing horse. Our people, who supported the revolution and the republic and held fast at the 'Ayban, Zafar, and Radfan mountains, are again ready to collectively confront the enemies of unity and democracy and the advocates of separation. They have been paid the price of the crisis. Yet, they continue to talk about the people's suffering and living conditions. They have received the price of the crisis to purchase mines, machine guns, and tools of death to [words indistinct] and to abort the unity and democratization. In their view, returning the homeland to pre- 22 May 1990 is a cultural achievement. Our understanding of a cultural achievement is democracy, development, progress, social justice, and boosting national unity among the sons of the Yemeni people. No cultural plan can call for disintegration, destruction, planting the mountains with mines and lethal weapons. Yet, they claim to be speaking for unity and on behalf of the masses. From this place, I call on the valiant children of Yemeni people in Aden, Hadhramaut, (?Rassan), al-Dali', al-Yafi', Shabwah, al-Maharah, Abyan, and throughout all the governorates of the republic to lie in wait against all anti-unity forces and separatist elements. If the separatists manage to control any part of the homeland, the iron fist will return. However, our entire Yemeni people throughout the homeland will be waiting for the separatists and will confront them. Our people will stem those who stop at the gates of some capitals to receive filthy money to abort unity. Our people and their Armed and Security Forces will say no to those people. They will collectively erect an impregnable wall against outlaws and those who want to harm the unity and democracy.

The brother chairman said: We proudly assure the masses of our Yemeni people that the unity enjoys extensive Arab, Islamic, and international support. This is because the unity is a guarantee of regional security and stability. We call on the unionists in the Yemeni Socialist Party to speak out and to firmly oppose the advocates of separation, who are inimical to the Yemeni people. We say yes to unity and democracy and no to infighting, blocking roads, and embellished speeches; yes to development, paving roads, building hospitals, and purchasing medicine, instead of purchasing tools of destruction, subversion, and death, and fattening overseas bank accounts.

Earlier, the festival was opened with Koranic recitations. Afterward, many speeches were delivered, including a speech by the popular commission for defense of unity and opposing separation in the capital. The speech was delivered by brother Jamal Sharhan. [passage omitted]

Further on Salih Speech

JN2704185394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpts] To celebrate 27 April Day, the immortal day of democracy in the life and history of our people [first anniversary of first legislative elections in Yemen], a grand popular speech rally was held today in 70 Square in Sanaa, the capital of the revolution and the unity. [passage omitted]

Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, attended the grand popular speech rally. He delivered an important national speech. [passage omitted]

Addressing the large crowd in 70 Square, the brother chairman said: You should arm yourselves with awareness. I had wished that the rest of the political parties would participate in the democratic framework. Some of these parties had acquired more than their true size. However, they knew their place on 27 April and each political party knew its true size. The masses said their

word and were above all parties, and above all those who seek to extend their hands abroad. The loyalty of the masses was for God, the homeland, the revolution, democracy, and unity. The masses spoke clearly: No to sectarianism, regionalism, and racism; no to the elements of sabotage and destruction. All those who seek to sabotage national unity and disunite national ranks will pay a heavy price. Each citizen of our people will turn into a judge, court president, and attorney general in the name of the Yemeni people to try all those who harm this homeland and this nation. Also, our Armed Forces today represent [words indistinct] the homeland and the shield of 22 May. They are also the protectors of unity and democracy.

The brother chairman called on the masses of our Yemeni people to form committees in all the governorates, districts, and neighborhoods, to defend unity and democracy and oppose the elements of sabotage wherever they exist.

The brother chairman cited a political statement by the spokesman of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] to the effect that the accord document cannot be accepted and that it is not possible to return to pre-22 May 1990 and after [date indistinct] 1993. He means by this canceling 22 May. However, there are people who have remained faithful to their pledge to God and who keep to unity and democracy. Unity and democracy are the property of the entire Yemeni people, who can protect them, since they are not the property of a political party or leader who claims guardianship over any governorate of the republic. The parties should be national parties and should extend over the entire Yemeni arena, from Sa'dah to al-Maharah and to Hadhdramaut, Aden, Ta'izz, and other governorates of the Yemeni republic. Our people reject, and will not accept, regional parties. These parties are rejected.

The brother chairman called on the House of Representatives to assume its historic responsibilities. He added that there is apparent circumvention to abort the [Dialogue] Committee. We had wished that the Dialogue Committee would be fair and unbiased and that it would side with justice against falsehood. Regrettably, however, the Dialogue Committee ordered all members of the Presidential Council to get together and this did not happen, but it did not dare condemn the party that violated its decisions.

He noted that the accord document stipulated two major points. First, arresting the subversive elements. However, the YSP is today allying with these elements and is supplying them with tools of sabotage. Second, moving the military units from the pre-unity positions to the center of Yemen in line with the document. However, this has not happened and we did not hear any voice from our brothers and colleagues in the Political Forces Dialogue Committee regarding this conduct. [passage omitted]

The brother chairman added that 27 April shall remain the cultural plan of the Yemeni republic. It is an object of admiration and appreciation of the world. We assert to those who attempt to fragment our national unity that we, here, shall maintain our steadfastness and defend the revolution, the republic, and the unity. There can be no alternative to the revolution, the republic, unity and democracy, whatever the price. [passage omitted]

Salih Visits Wounded Minister in Hospital

JN2804172894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, this afternoon called on brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, the first deputy prime minister, who has been hospitalized following a sinful assassination bid today. The brother chairman inquired about brother Makki's health and expressed regret for this deplorable incident. He wished the brother first deputy prime minister speedy recovery. He also expressed condolences for the families of the three martyred escorts of the first deputy prime minister who fell in that regrettable incident.

The brother chairman was accompanied by brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of industry; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development; Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutwakkil, minister of interior; and Husayn al-Masiri, Sanaa mayor.

Talks With UN Commission End; Statement Issued

JN2604164594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the UN Special Commission, which lasted three days, ended today. A joint statement was issued on the high-level talks held in Baghdad between Iraq and the UN Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

The statement said the talks are a continuation of the discussions started in July 1993 in Baghdad and New York. The statement further noted the tangible progress made since the recent round of high-level talks in New York 14-19 March 1994. The statement also expressed the appreciation of the Special Commission and the IAEA for Iraq's prompt, positive response to their demands, thus facilitating effective and active inspection. This has also significantly contributed to establishing long-term monitoring and verification as called for by Security Council resolutions.

The Special Commission and the IAEA also welcomed Iraq's commitment to continue to cooperate with them. The Special Commission and the IAEA reiterated their commitment to Iraq's legitimate interests pertaining to sovereignty, independence, security, and dignity in line with the UN Charter.

The two sides also asserted their commitment to continuing and intensifying efforts to reach their common objective, noting that Iraq has adopted all measures stipulated in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 of 1991.

In a related development, Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, held a news conference, in which he reviewed the talks he held with Iraqi officials 24-26 April. Ekeus pointed out that great progress has been made in technical aspects related to the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

He praised Iraq's cooperation with UN committees, expressing his happiness for these positive developments that were reflected in the joint statement issued at the conclusion of the talks today.

Answering an INA question about the substance of the report he will submit to the Security Council this week, Ekeus said the joint statement issued today will be an official document of the Security Council, in addition to the nominal report that will be presented by the Special Commission and the IAEA.

Ekeus added that the Special Commission will inform the Security Council of the progress made thus far, pointing out that a decision to lift the embargo is a political one and made by the Security Council.

Ekeus further asserted that the meetings held between Iraq and the Special Commission since last July have made tangible progress and have enhanced mutual confidence on both sides.

Ekeus and his delegation left Baghdad following a three-day visit to Iraq.

Commentary Views Ekeus' Remarks

JN2704191194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary from the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] At the conclusion of his visit to Baghdad, Rolf Ekeus said the question of lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq is a political decision. This is not the first time the head of the UN Special Commission has made such a declaration. For some time, Mr. Ekeus has been talking about matters that go beyond the technical aspects of arms, disarmament, and other issues related to weapons of mass destruction. When weapons-related issues were still pending between Iraq and the Special Commission, particularly questions pertaining to ways of implementing relevant UN Security Council resolution, Ekeus and other UN officials emphasized in their statements the need for Iraq to respect the resolutions of the international legitimacy, particularly the UN Security Council resolutions. They used to say the decision to lift the sanctions depends on Iraq's implementation of those resolutions, which they admit to be negative, illegitimate, and unjust. When Iraq declared that it had fully complied with the UN Security Council resolutions and that there is no justification for the continued blockade, they started raising issues which in themselves are considered a circumvention of those resolutions and their objectives.

To appease their masters in Washington, it is absolutely clear that sometimes they play with words and sometimes they play for time to prolong the blockade. Therefore, saying that the blockade question depends on the UN Security Council political plans exposes the last pretext in a series of pretexts they have been using throughout the stages of the blockade. This also proves that the matter has nothing to do with Iraq's implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. As Ekeus bluntly put it, the question needs a political decision.

Talk about a political decision is no surprise for Iraq. In fact, it perhaps surprises some quarters which (?used to believe) that Iraq's implementation of UN Security Council resolutions means paving the way for lifting the blockade. However, as proved by recent events, the matter is not like that. As Ekeus says, the decision is political rather than technical, as it should be.

At any rate, great Iraq has managed to expose all the faces hiding behind false, glimmering slogans. Iraq is now capable of exposing them completely to prove to the entire world that all their words on legitimacy are false.

Barzani Party Denies Conditions for Damascus Visit

JN2604190794 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Letter from the Kurdistan Democratic Party's Central Public Relations Office to the London-based Arabic daily AL-HAYAH; date not given]

[Text] To the esteemed AL-HAYAH newspaper:

Subject: Explanation

Greetings:

In its issue No. 11,386 dated 20 April 1994, your newspaper published an article by Kamiran Qurrah Daghi under the headline "Barzani Sets Three Conditions for Acceptance of Damascus Invitation." In order to shed light and explain the truth about what was published in the article, we ask that the following explanation be published:

1. Our party's relations with Syria are strong. They are based on mutual respect and understanding. We attach great importance to these relations.

2. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has kindly received Mr. Barzani during all his visits to Syria. Mr. Barzani has strong and close relations with President Hafiz al-Asad.

3. We would like to explain that Barzani would not set conditions for visiting Syria. He regards Syria as his own country. The doors of Damascus have always been and still are open and there is no need for friends to set conditions among themselves.

Please accept our regards.

Signed: The Central Public Relations Office

Talabani Comments on Ties With Israel, Regime

NC2604201594 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 12

[Report on interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Sami Kulayb in Paris; date not given]

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has not ruled out the establishment of relations between the Kurds and Israel sometime in the future when most of the Arabs have done so. However, he rejected the possibility of renewing a dialogue with Baghdad and criticized Saddam Husayn's regime, describing him as a dictator.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Talabani said that the Turkish military operations in northern Iraq are meant for domestic propaganda.

Talabani's remarks came the day after his arrival in Paris, where he will meet for the first time with the leaders of the French right in addition to President Francois Mitterrand, who stressed in their meeting one year ago that he supports the proposal for a Kurdish federation within Iraq's territory.

On relations with Israel, Talabani said: "We have not found any Israeli who has penetrated Iraq's Kurdistan. No Israeli delegation has visited us. But I want to ask why it is all right for the Israelis to visit Cairo, the capital of the Arab nation and the citadel of Arabism, but they are not allowed to visit part of Arab Iraq or part of Iraq's Kurdistan? Why is it permissible for them to hold talks with the Arab leaders but they are not allowed to come to us?"

He continued: "I want to ask with more frankness. We, the Kurds, have been historically known to support the Palestinian people in their just cause and are more than proud of thi. support. But are we more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves? Do we care more for the Palestinian cause than Mr. Yasir 'Arafat? He met, talked, and even embraced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Why shouldn't a Kurd do the same? Are we more royalists than the king?"

Talabani added: "It is true that there are no relations now. But I would not be surprised if such relations were established one day. As we know, relations between a number of Arab countries and Israel have become semi-normal. Iraq has informed Israel in secret memos on relations of its desire to establish ties with the Hebrew state, and Kurdistan is part of Iraq. Why shouldn't the Kurds have the right to do so when the Arab countries are competing to establish ties with Israel and when King Hassan II, chairman of the Arab Jerusalem Committee, receives Israeli ministers?"

He said: "The talk about Israeli penetration is primarily based on the Iraqi regime's lies and on the appearance of an organization for the Jews of Kurdistan in Israel. The Jews who went from Kurdistan to the Hebrew state carried with them good memories of the hospitable and tolerant Kurdish people, who treated them humanely and with dignity. Kurdistan's Jews have established a society to defend the Kurdish people and strengthen ties with Kurdistan. This society has carried out some activities in Israel. There has been talk about the existence of a relationship. I personally do not rule out the establishment of a relationship in the future. I do not think that this will be strange, since the Arab brothers have legalized the relationship with Israel."

Regarding how relations with Israel will benefit the Kurdish people, Talabani said: "It is in the best interests of the Kurds to establish relations with everyone and not be hostile toward anyone in the world because, as the proverb says, one thousand friends are a little but one enemy is too much. If the Arab brothers are accusing us of establishing ties with Israel, then they are establishing better ones. If a Syrian-Israeli peace settlement is achieved on the basis of a comprehensive peace in return

for a full withdrawal, then we will welcome it, especially if Syria retrieves the Golan. Kurdish-Israeli relations will begin then."

Talking about "the impossible dialogue" with the Iraqi regime and about some Kurds' desire to establish some form of autonomy, he said: "The Kurdish people are committed to the Iraqi people's national unity. We are committed to Iraqi unity, but we want a democratic, federal Iraq. We believe that dictatorship poses a great danger to Iraq's independence, unity, and existence. Therefore, we want to change the dictatorial regime and replace it with a democratic one."

The PUK leader added: "It was the current Iraqi regime that ruled out the dialogue. It refused to introduce any democratic changes and submit to the will of the Iraqi people, both Arabs and Kurds. It also rejected the Kurdish people's minimum demands. The (regime) became very arrogant for several days following the Russian military coup, and this prompted it to give a negative reply to the simplest demands presented by brother Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the negotiating Kurdish delegation in Baghdad. The delegation had no choice but to return and the negotiations were aborted."

He said: "I personally have much experience in negotiating with successive Iraqi Governments. I have been negotiating with them since 1963. I believe that the experience proves that negotiating with a dictatorial regime is futile and will not lead to results. Therefore, I personally rule out negotiations with a dictatorial government. This is not just my personal opinion, but also that of the Kurdistan Front, which believes that action is necessary for the sake of a democratic Iraq. This is also the view of the unified Iraqi National Congress."

Asked to comment on reports published in some newspapers citing Turkish officials who stressed that Iraq is ready to resume a dialogue with the Kurds, Talabani said: "I believe that this is a new Iraqi lie to deceive the Turks because the Turkish Government likes to get rid of the Kurdish problem in Iraq's Kurdistan. It fears the presence of a federal Kurdish entity and consequently fears the internationalization of the Kurdish problem. It wants a solution to be found within the Iraqi framework. Hence, the Iraqi Government is deceiving the Turks and dropping hints of its desire to resume the dialogue. But I ask: If (Baghdad) is serious, why doesn't it do so directly?"

Talabani expressed doubts about Ankara's information on the losses of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK], against whom Turkey is undertaking military operations in northern Iraq. He said: "The Turkish figures that are always given about Iraq's Kurdistan are exaggerated. There are no people, villages, or human beings in the area invaded by the Turkish forces. If there are some PKK members there, they have most probably come from Turkish territories, not to set up permanent bases but to flee from the Turks."

He stressed: "There are no permanent PKK bases all along the Iraqi-Turkish border. The 'joined' Kurdish forces [Talabani's PUK and Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party] can control the border areas. The Turkish Government's objectives in its operations are to use them for domestic propaganda."

Regarding the reason for the West's nonrecognition of the political institutions in Iraq's Kurdistan, such as the parliament and the government, Talabani said: "The reason is that the Kurds themselves are not asking the West to recognize the Kurdish government because they do not want an independent government and they have not announced one. They only announced federal measures within a unified Iraqi entity. A federation does not mean division of the state's institutions, and an example of this is Germany, Belgium, Canada, the United States, Pakistan, and India. However, the West has recognized the elections and democracy in Iraq's Kurdistan."

On the nature of relations with Syria, the Kurdish official said: "Syria has always been a shelter for free Kurds and free Iraqis. Since the corrective movement launched by President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has been backing the struggle of the Kurdish people and the Iraqi opposition forces to establish democracy in Iraq, end the dictatorship, and build a plural and democratic Iraq. Syria has always been and continues to be friendly with the Kurds." He denied that Mas'ud Barzani had set conditions for visiting Damascus. He added: "Actually, my information is the opposite of what the newspaper AL-HAYAH has published. When I was in Syria, I met with a representative of brother Mas'ud Barzani, who made a request explaining Barzani's desire to visit Damascus without prior conditions."

Reviewing the ties linking the Kurds with the United States, Talabani pointed out that the "U.S. position toward the Kurdish cause is friendly. The democratic administration under President Clinton and Vice President Gore has repeatedly reiterated its commitment to protecting the Kurdish people from the dictatorial aggression, helping them rebuild their region, and getting involved in our issues in general. Even if we take the U.S. stance regarding the Turkish Kurds, we will find that in his latest message to the Turkish prime minister Clinton urged her to find a political and peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue in Turkey. Thus, the U.S. attitude toward us is friendly and positive."

Asked if the Kurds want the United States to overthrow the Iraqi regime, Talabani said: "As an Iraqi Kurd, I cannot accept the dictatorial regime's being removed by foreign hands. Had the Gulf war resulted in the downfall of the regime, we would have been happy, but I believe that the main task lies with the Iraqi people."

Talabani talked about his current European tour. He explained that before visiting France he had met in Germany with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, leaders of political parties, and leaders of the Bundestag, particularly the chairman and leading figures of the Foreign

Relations Committee. In Greece he met with leaders of PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement].

On his current visit to France, he said: "Tomorrow we will meet with French Defense Minister Francois Leotard, party leaders, and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. On Friday we will meet with President Mitterrand. They will be the first meetings with the French right, and the atmosphere surrounding the meetings seems to be one of understanding and amity. As for the meeting with Leotard, we will express condolences over the death of the French military official who was killed in the U.S. helicopter incident. Leotard was and still is sympathetic to our cause. I repeat that France remains committed to its position regarding the need for Iraq to implement all the UN resolutions. President Mitterrand has responded positively to our federation proposal. He is the one who proposed such a solution for countries with multiethnic groups."

In another development, Talabani announced that he will participate in a seminar entitled "The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Minorities and the Middle East Peoples" to be held in Cairo 12-14 May. It will be attended by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and a number of Arab figures, including Minister Walid Junblatt, Minh al-Sulh, Karim Paqraduni, Ghassan Salamah, Karim Muruwwah, and Muna 'Ubayd from Lebanon. It will also be attended by Ait Ahmed, leader of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front, and leaders of the rebellion in southern Sudan.

PKK Fighters Cut Power in al-Jazirah

JN2704170394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] On the night of 24-25 April, an armed group belonging to the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] cut off electricity in Dahuk Governorate by destroying an electrical tower near the town of al-Jazirah. This is the second time PKK forces have cut off electric power in the area.

Peres on Golan Withdrawal, Peace With Syria

TA2604202194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Interview and public phone-in with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Nisim Mish'al in the studio on the weekly "Conference Call" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Unidentified caller] The press reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has advised the prime minister against a full withdraw from the Golan Heights, while the prime minister declared he is willing to fully withdraw in return for full peace with Syria. In 1973, the chief of staff advised the cabinet to call up the reserves and, regrettably, the government decided otherwise, though the price was different. In view of this, does the foreign minister not think that maybe we should take the IDF estimate that we should not withdraw from the Golan Heights more seriously?

[Peres] Allow me first to correct you. The prime minister never said he favors a full withdrawal from the Golan. He said that the depth of withdrawal will match the depth of peace, but he did not say that we want full withdrawal. There are two questions here: one is military and regards the General Staff, the other is political and regards the government. The Army was asked how can we win a war—that is, should we hold on to another mountain, which is reasonable. The government is asked how to prevent a war. Let me ask you, which is more important—winning a war or preventing it? To prevent war, you need to attain peace. Hence, the question is not whether or not to get off the Golan Heights but how to attain peace. You should honestly ask yourself: Can we attain peace with Syria while holding on to the Golan Heights? If you want the State of Israel to live from one war to another while always thinking about how to win the next one, what kind of security is this? In terms of security, peace is an asset more important than army deployment. Peace is a weapon which protects Israel's security.

[Mish'al] Mr. Peres, let us review your stands on the issue of the Golan: You are for removing settlements from the Golan, as the prime minister said, and you are for ceding the Golan in return for a peace agreement. If so, what is there left to negotiate; the duration of the withdrawal?

[Peres] I never said I am for relinquishing, or even for saying I am for relinquishing, the entire Golan Heights.

[Mish'al] You are not for it?

[Peres] I am not for saying it. There are many questions that I have asked, and I am not willing to give answers regarding Israel before receiving answers that concern Israel.

[Mish'al] Excuse me, Mr. Peres, the press carry daily reports in which you and Mr. Rabin announce concessions on the Golan Heights, declare evacuation of settlements. Where else did the Israeli public get this idea from?

[Peres] This will not work. You will not mislead me. Let me tell you this: We say that we are willing to make concessions on the Golan in order to reach peace with Syria. It is clear to us that if we cede parts of the Golan Heights—and I am not referring to their size at this time—no settlements will remain there. The one follows from the other. I believe in saying the truth. The time has come to stop pretending.

[Mish'al] Please, say the truth.

[Peres] I am. I believe that attaining a comprehensive peace arrangement with Syria, including the Golan Heights, calls for the attainment of several goals: I want this to be the last agreement with the Arab world—that is, after it is signed, the Arab world will no longer boycott us, threaten us, or be in a state of war with us. Al-Asad claims he is the leader of the Arab world. This is the last peak over which we haggle. I want this to be the last war we discuss.

[Mish'al] But while you attempt to conquer this peak, you, Mr. Rabin, in fact the entire Israeli Government, announce a willingness to make concessions. At the same time, we have not heard anything from al-Asad.

[Peres] Why are you worried? If he makes no concessions, there will be no agreement. Why are you so worried?

[Mish'al] You, who are negotiating with him, should be worried.

[Peres] I am not worried. In general, we are talking as if this is some ball. Everyone knows we have an agreement with Egypt, and that this agreement was signed by a person who said he will never give up the Sinai and he gave up on the entire Sinai, thus setting a precedent.

[Mish'al] But there was a slight difference: Al-Sadat announced he is ready to come to Jerusalem and address the Israeli nation and the Knesset and announce his willingness to make peace.

[Peres] I am all for al-Asad doing the same thing.

[Mish'al] Only he does not want to.

[Peres] We have no peace yet. Also, this is why we have no agreement. I say that peace with Syria should be accompanied by two types of agreements: A comprehensive peace between the states and a thorough peace in terms of the issues, including the strategic, tactical, and economic issues. This time, we want a comprehensive peace. We do want an open wound. We want real and comprehensive peace. We know the price; we know it is painful; I do not have to announce it at the beginning of the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Peres on Upcoming Cairo Talks, Syrian Track

TA2804052894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Excerpts] [Einstein] Mr. Peres, what issues in the Cairo talks still remain open?

[Peres] We will see what issues are finalized by this afternoon. There are still several issues that must be dealt with.

[Einstein] Do you believe you will be able to reach understandings during your visit to Cairo today?

[Peres] This is our intention, but it is impossible to know what the other side's position will be: What they will emphasize and what they will insist on. This is a negotiations process, and in every such process we can know at most only 50 percent—namely, our own positions.

[Einstein] What will we insist on?

[Peres] We will insist on what we have insisted on throughout the process—namely, the security issues. We will not make any compromises on anything relating to human life. I want to add here, however, something that everybody understands: It is impossible to eradicate violence by force alone. Like elsewhere in the world, we need a carrot in addition to the stick. In order to wipe out the raging terrorism in Israel, we must use both the carrot and the stick. [passage omitted]

[Einstein] It is generally assessed that the agreement will be signed next week. Do you share this assessment?

[Peres] Unfortunately I cannot predict the date. I can tell you with conviction, however, that we will do our utmost to navigate the ship safely to shore—namely, to finalize the negotiations. If it takes one more week, that will be good; if an additional week will be necessary, however, so be it. Sometimes there is a trade-off [last word in English] between the time element and the contents. There is no doubt, however, that the issue has matured, and I believe we should sign the agreement. When I spoke about the carrot, I was not referring to mere tactics. I believe that only a new reality can change the old reality—that is, when the Palestinians finally have a territorial address and possess various powers. The Palestinians will have a piece of reality in their possession. Without this, I fear that the overcrowded conditions, the overpopulation, and mounting hate will feed the growing violence and terrorism.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, do you believe that an agreement with the Palestinians will facilitate the talks with Syria?

[Peres] We have never made the two issues conditional on each other. The truth is, however, that if we finalize the agreement with the Palestinians, we will be freer to deal with the Syrian issue, although we have never put this issue off. Incidentally, wrapping things up with the Palestinians will be no excuse for making uncalled for concessions on the Syrian track. We want to attain a comprehensive agreement, and this must clearly include Syria as well. We regard our future with Syria not in terms of warfare but in terms of peace and understanding in all spheres.

[Einstein] Does Christopher's visit mean a possible breakthrough with Syria?

[Peres] The United States is constantly trying to lower the expectations. It is right in doing so, because it, too, does not know exactly what to expect from Damascus. I have no doubts that Warren Christopher will exert supreme efforts to pave the way for the negotiations. So far, however, Damascus is behaving stubbornly. It appears to have a strategy of peace, but the winds of peace are still not blowing from that direction.

Peres: Palestinian Autonomy Practically 'Independence'

TA2704165994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Peres told the Knesset plenum that when the Palestinians are granted autonomy, it will practically be independence.

Referring to the Camp David accords, Peres said when the Likud Prime Minister Menahem Begin offered autonomy to all the Palestinian residents of Judaea and Samaria, the Likud should have known that autonomy is 80 percent, if not 90 percent, independence. Autonomy is not a reduction in their authority but basically sovereignty minus responsibility for two things: security and foreign relations. Peres later said we will let the Palestinians run their lives with honor and independence, again with the two exceptions.

The foreign minister was responding to a motion for the agenda by Likud Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav, who accused Peres of rushing the negotiations with the PLO at the expense of Israeli interests.

Talks' Progress Permits Peres, Sarid To Visit Cairo

TA2704045394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Jerusalem believes that the progress in the Cairo talks permits Ministers Peres and Sarid to leave for Cairo tomorrow for a summing up meeting with PLO leaders. The Egyptians are pushing for a joint Israeli-Palestinian meeting with Secretary of State Christopher, who will be in Cairo tomorrow.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Japanese foreign minister informed the Israeli Foreign Ministry that he wants to be present at the Gaza-Jericho First signing ceremony. Japan has made a commitment to contribute $200 million to the Palestinian council.

Rabin Returns From Official Visit to Russia

TA2804043194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin last night returned from his official visit to Russia. He arrived on an El Al flight carrying 184 immigrants from Kiev and St. Petersburg. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met Rabin at Ben-Gurion Airport, and the two traveled back to Jerusalem together. The prime minister did not speak to the reporters who were waiting for him at the airport.

Advance Team Leaves for Qatar To Prepare Arms Talks

TA2704063694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] An Israeli delegation of Foreign and Defense Ministry officials has left for Qatar to prepare for next week's regional talks on arms control. The team is being led by Foreign Ministry official Shlomo Gur. It is the second official Israeli delegation to attend multilateral talks in a Gulf state. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin headed the Israeli team that returned from Oman last week where multilateral talks on water resources were held.

Knesset Defeats Bill To Fortify Golan Law

TA2704114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The proposed bill to fortify the Golan Law was defeated in the Knesset plenum by a majority of 57 to 47. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], Hayim Ramon, Shmu'el Avital, and Amir Peretz [members of Ramon's list to the Histadrut trade union elections] voted with the coalition.

More on Defeat of Golan Bill

TA2704164794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The Knesset today rejected the draft bills presented by NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Levi and Likud MK 'Uzi Landau on the Golan Heights by a majority of 57 to 47 votes. The draft bills sought to make any territorial concessions on the Golan Heights conditional on a parliamentary majority of at least 80 MK's. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Tamar Asalem reports:

[Begin recording] [Asalem] MK Yitzhaq Levi presented his draft bill against the background of two remarks by the prime minister. The first asserted that a national referendum would be held prior to any withdrawal from the Golan Heights while the second referred to the evacuation of settlements. Levi said there was no official government decision on holding a national referendum and that Rabin could not be counted on to keep his promises.

[Levi] The prime minister is the greatest retractor in Israel. No one goes back on his remarks as much as the prime minister. He immediately retracts every statement he makes. Every time he speaks he changes his mind. Therefore, I believe that he is worthy of this title.

[Asalem] MK 'Uzi Landau continued the personal attack on Rabin. Landau caused a furor in the plenum when he read excerpts from 'Ezer Weizman's book about Rabin's collapse during his tenure as chief of staff and about how the collapse was passed off as a case of nicotine poisoning. The prime minister, Landau said, could not take pressure.

[Landau] One cannot have confidence in him. He fails to keep his promises not because he does not want to—he does—but because he simply cannot. The prime minister breaks under pressure and has been suffering from chronic nicotine poisoning since 23 May 1967.

[Asalem] Against this background, Landau said, the prime minister's promises could not be counted upon and the issue must be anchored in law. Minister Moshe Shahal, who replied on behalf of the government, called the personal attacks on Rabin ridiculous and said that these were the last-ditch efforts of pathetic individuals who had lost their political bearings. Moving on to the issue itself, Shahal said that the Golan Heights had never been consecrated by politicians, had not been occupied because it was holy land, and Israel's history had not begun on its basalt rocks. Shahal taunted opposition MK's, who have sought on several occasions to pass similar bills, by saying that in such historic times sitting on the opposition benches was not only frustrating but even tedious. The coalition's efforts to muster all possible support proved itself. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] also voted against the bills, which were defeated by a majority of 57 votes. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 27 April reports: "The Knesset plenum today passed the preliminary reading of MK Yehoshu'a Matza's bill limiting the prime minister to two portfolios, in addition to the premiership portfolio. The coalition failed to muster a majority and the plenum passed the bill with a majority of 26 versus 22.

"The Knesset also passed the preliminary hearing of a bill submitted by David Mena' and Limor Livnat from the Likud to apply state audit to the Histadrut Labor Union and its institutions. The bill passed with a majority of 20 versus one."]

Opposition Parties Submit 3 Motions of No Confidence

TA2704144194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The Likud, NRP [National Religious Party], Tzomet, and YI'UD [Independent and Democratic

Israel] have submitted motions of no confidence in the government that will be debated by the Knesset on 2 May.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Likud explains its motion by what it terms the government's inability to protect the state's vital interests and to conduct negotiations wisely and responsibly.

The joint no-confidence motion of Tzomet and the NRP cites what it terms the government's inadequate struggle against terror.

The YI'UD's motion of no confidence was instigated by the prime minister's remarks on Golan settlements evacuation.

Coalition Chairman Eli Dayan has said in reaction that the conduct of the opposition, which exploits terrorist attacks for antigovernment incitement, reflects an absence of national responsibility.

Kakh, Kahana Hay Announce Merger

TA2604184294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Nitzan Hen video report; speakers identified by caption]

[Text] The outlawed Kakh and Kahana Hay Movements have decided to merge into one new movement, which would fight against the administrative detentions issued against some of their members. Kakh leader Barukh Marzel, currently in prison, and Kahana Hay leader Binyamin Kahana decided on the merger. Beni Kahana held a news conference this afternoon in Jerusalem to report on the affair. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen reports:

[Begin video-recording] [Hen] The decision to merge Kakh and Kahana Hay was born in the Hasharon Prison where Binyamin Kahana was held in the same cell with his biggest rival, Barukh Marzel. Kahana was released from prison last weekend. In response to the wave of administrative detention orders issued against activists of both movements, the two decided to put personal rivalries aside and work together.

[Kahana] In putting a large group of people in prison, the government has itself established the alternative leadership.

[Hen] The police sent its own observers to the news conference, fearing that the cooperation declaration might not strictly fall within the law.

[Kakh activist Mikha'el Ben-Ari] The cooperation will mainly be expressed in public activity, primarily on the streets. There will be legal coordination of our struggle against the various government decisions. We will also choose other ways, some of which we will disclose, others of which we will only report after the fact. [end recording]

Baraq Says PLO, Hamas Possess Similar Aims

TA2604164694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] represent two aspects of a national movement possessing rather similar long-term aims vis-a-vis Israel. Lieutenant General Baraq added, however, that the two organizations have different methods for arriving at these goals.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports Lt. Gen. Baraq today briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee about reports on agreements between the PLO and Hamas. Baraq said that he will not be surprised if Hamas people join social networks in Gaza and Jericho, such as schools and welfare services. The chief of staff also said he will not be surprised if one faction of Hamas will pursue the path of terrorism. The chief of staff believes that the PLO will on the whole be interested in proving that terrorism is on the wane in the areas under their jurisdiction.

Over 150 Hamas Activists Detained in Janin Area

TA2604164894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The security forces are continuing the campaign of detention against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Janin area in the wake of the terrorist acts in 'Afula and Hadera, which resulted in the death and injury of some Israeli civilians. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that so far the security forces have detained more than 150 persons in the Janin area on suspicion of being Hamas activists.

IDF General Meets Senior Gaza Hamas Official

TA2704194594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Brigadier General Doron Almog, the commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the Gaza Strip, met today with Muhsin Abu-'Ayta, one of the senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] officials in the Gaza Strip. The meeting was also attended by the adviser on Arab affairs at the Gaza Civil Administration.

Several issues were raised at the meeting, including the agreement between Fatah and Hamas and the latter's position toward the Palestinian autonomy.

Brig. Gen. Almog stressed that the IDF would continue to fight against Hamas while Abu-'Ayta, for his part, asserted that the agreement between Hamas and Fatah was an internal agreement which did not relate to political matters.

General: Syria Buying Scud Missiles in North Korea

TA2704114694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Major General Ze'ev Livne, commander of the Home Front Command, said that Syria is continuing to procure launchers and Scud missiles from North Korea. He said that for the Home Front Command it does not matter where the missiles are launched, whether from Iran, Syria, or Iraq. However, if they are launched in Iran it poses much more complex operational problems.

The commander made the remarks to our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today fired a 155 mm gun into a concrete wall as part of a series of tests aimed at developing defenses for settlements along the confrontation lines to enable them to withstand a direct hit by a shell.

Arabs Carrying Classified Information Seek Asylum

JN2804101394 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p 20

[Text] Using the same northern point, 10 Arabs, in two batches, have managed to escape to Israel across the Jordanian border. All carried extremely important classified military information because most of them were high-ranking officers and experts.

The 10 agents have asked for political asylum in Israel.

Claims of U.S. Spy Operations Reported

NC2704155494 Paris AFP in English 1403 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Jerusalem, April 27 (AFP)—The United States has run at least three spies against Israel who were all caught and jailed, according to a book published this week.

An Israeli-Arab arrested in 1988 is still in prison on charges of spying for Washington, said Yosi Melman, co-author of "Friends Indeed, Inside the US-Israel Alliance."

In another case a member of Israel's Shin Bet General Security Service passed on documents to double agent Major Yosi Amit, an Israeli intelligence officer he knew, Melman said.

The Shin Bet man has never been identified, nor has the Israeli-Arab, but Amit was released in October after serving seven years of a 12-year term.

"Israel has never wanted to admit which country Amit spied for," Melman told AFP. "All we know officially is that he supplied information to foreign agents. Although the United States denies it, I believe he spied for them.

"The Shin Bet agent who handed over documents to Amit claimed that he did not know what Amit did with them," Melman said. He was jailed for only three months.

"The first arrest in 1986 led Israeli investigators to suspect that the United States has set up a spy ring in Israel," Melman added.

With co-author and American Dan Raviv of CBS, he claims that the United States monitors Israel from a giant intelligence-gathering base in northern England which also watches Europe.

"One unit specializing in Hebrew listens permanently to Israel," Melman said. However he added that "the United States is cautious and uses a limited number of spies in Israel."

The book also backed previous press reports that Israel offered the United States a spy exchange in 1991, four years after the United States jailed for life Jonathan Pollard, a US naval officer, who spied for Israel.

Settler Receives Life for Murdering 'Terrorist'

TA2804075194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The Jerusalem District Court sentenced Yoram Skolnik, from the settlement of Ma'ale Hever in the Hebron Hills, to life in prison. He was convicted of the premeditated murder of the terrorist Musa Sabah, whose hands and feet were bound after he was apprehended for having stabbed a settler near the settlement of Susya in the Hebron Hills.

'Terrorist' Shot, Curfew Imposed After Stabbing Bid

TA2604061694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] An Arab armed with a knife tried to stab a soldier at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblock in Policeman's Square in Hebron this morning. The soldier was not hurt. The terrorist was shot and apparently killed. Disturbances and stone-throwing incidents broke out after the event. Two Arabs arrived at al-Ahali Hospital with slight wounds sustained during the disturbances. The IDF imposed a curfew on the center of Hebron.

Queen Mother al-Sharaf Passes Away in Lausanne

King Brings Queen Mother's Body Home

JN2604192794 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The body of the late Queen Mother Zayn al-Sharaf returned home tonight after she passed away at Lausanne hospital in Switzerland at the age of 86.

His majesty the king piloted the plane which carried the late queen back to Amman about 45 minutes ago.

The king was accompanied by Queen Nur, Her Royal Highness Princess Basmah, and the chief of the Royal Court.

The king was received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and members of the royal family. [passage omitted]

Court Announces 40-Day Mourning Period

JN2604111794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The Hashemite Royal Court has issued a statement mourning the passing away of her Majesty Queen Zayn al-Sharaf, the queen mother, this morning the 26th of April 1994. The statement expresses heartfelt condolences to his majesty the king and to the Royal Hashemite household.

Upon the orders of his majesty the king, the Hashemite Royal Court has announced an official mourning for 40 days at the Royal Court.

The prime minister and the Council of Ministers mourned with profound sorrow and grief the passing away of Her Majesty Queen Zayn al-Sharaf, the queen mother, who departed this morning after a life full of giving and bounty. The late queen mother was cherished and loved by all Jordanian people, who always found in her an example of the ideal mother for her people and nation and a symbol of sacrifice and refined ethics. During her life, she sponsored several institutions that cared for the orphans and poor and supported the underprivileged.

The prime minister and the Council of Ministers would like to convey to his majesty the king, to the noble Hashemite Royal household, to the Jordanian people, and to the Arab and Islamic nation their sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathy on this painful occasion.

The Upper House of Parliament and the Lower House of Parliament also mourned the passing away of her majesty the queen mother. The speakers and members of both houses conveyed their sincerest condolences to his majesty the king, His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and to the Royal Hashemite household on this painful occasion.

'Thousands,' Foreign Dignitaries Attend Funeral

Country Pays Last Respects

JN2704133894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Jordan has paid its last respects to the late Queen Zayn al-Sharaf, the queen mother, who passed away yesterday morning in Switzerland after a life fully dedicated to goodness and bounty.

King Husayn, who was in Britain for an ear operation, accompanied the body of the queen mother's final homecoming late last night.

The late queen's flag-draped coffin was carried on a gun carriage accompanied by an escort from Raghadan Palace to the Royal Guard's Mosque where the funeral prayers took place after which the body was laid to rest at the royal cemetery.

His Majesty the King, their royal highnesses the princes, and the sharifs, accepted condolences after the funeral. Thousands of mourners also paid their last respects to the late Queen Zayn.

The funeral was attended by foreign dignitaries, including the visiting president of Mali, and delegations from the PLO and Oman. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Envoy Arrives

JN2704150394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid al-Janabi, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's adviser and personal envoy, has arrived to offer condolences to His Majesty King Husayn on the death of Her Majesty Queen Zayn al-Sharaf.

He was received at Amman airport by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty's adviser, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

PLO Delegation Extends Condolences

JN2704163794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Hani al-Hasan and 'Abbas Zaki, members of the Fatah Central Committee, and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, arrived in Amman this morning, to represent the Palestinian leadership in the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Zayn al-Sharaf and to extend condolences to His Majesty King Husayn on this solemn occasion.

[Begin al-Hasan recording] We we were all shocked by the death of the queen mother. The Palestinian leadership immediately decided to form a delegation to extend condolences to His Majesty King Husayn. Today we come to fraternal Jordan in the name of the Palestinian people to offer condolences from the bottom of our hearts. In any case, who gave birth to His Majesty King Husayn remains alive. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Syrian President Received

JN2804111394 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has arrived in Amman at the head of a delegation to offer condolences to his majesty the king over the death of her majesty the queen mother.

The Syrian president was received upon arrival by his majesty the king, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, their Royal Highnesses Princes 'Abdallah, Faysal, and Talal, as well as other members of the royal family. Also present at the airport to receive the Syrian leader were the prime minister, the speakers of parliament, and other top officials.

The Syrian president is accompanied by his foreign and information ministers.

King Receives Condolences on Queen Mother's Death

King Fahd Cables Condolences

JN2704144194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received the following cable of condolences from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud:

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amman,

We have received the news of the death of your mother and we express to you, to your brothers, and to all the members of your family our heartfelt condolences. We pray to God almighty to have mercy on her soul and to make paradise here final abode.

We are from God and to him we will return.

[Signed] The custodian of the two holy mosques, Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of Saudi Arabia.

Habash, Others Cable Condolences

JN2704150594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has received cables of condolences on the death of the queen mother from George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the Palestinian president; and Jawid al-Ghusayn, chairman of the Palestine National Fund. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Hasan on Peace Process, Trade

NC2604161494 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal by Ashraf Khalil in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Khalil] What is your evaluation of the peace process?

[Hasan] There have been various international moves and initiatives following the Oslo accord between the PLO and Israel. There are reports of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher—the more important cosponsor of the conference—to the region to promote the talks. To tell you the truth, I know nothing about the visit. Regarding my evaluation of the peace process, I believe that the current circumstances resemble a no peace, no war situation. It looks like a stalemate. We have not changed positions. I ask: What is the use of the talks if they do not produce positive progress on all tracks? The complete opposite is happening on the ground of reality. Let me mention the Hebron massacre and the feelings of sorrow and frustration it has left in the Arab world. Naturally, this barbaric massacre against innocent people is a reflection of the failure of the talks. It in turn pushes the parties to the point of despair. That paves the way for more unjustified acts of violence. Here, I want to return to the basic issue, the issue of mankind and mankind's view of peace and its benefits and gains. We are not ones to thwart the peace process but we are searching for just and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN resolutions.

[Khalil] What is your view of the region's future in light of the negotiating process? Israel's ultimate aim is the establishment of a regional bloc or a Middle East regime that will redraw the landscape of the region. I believe, Your Highness, you agree with me that Jordan is a sine qua non for the Middle East market project in its first stage, the so-called triangle, according to a book by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Hasan] Yes, Peres says we need economic projects and commercial dealings to protect peace. My response is that peace will not thrive on forced relations between two different economies when the rich side gets richer at the expense of the economy of the poor. I believe Peres' projects need a clear perspective. Our perspective in Jordan is that we should shoulder our Arab responsibility within an Arab framework. Any talk about a Middle East market that will achieve Israel's economic ambitions is premature. We have not achieved peace yet. So on what basis should I ask the Arab citizen to change his feelings, agree to deal with it, and establish economic and trade activity with it? This is a complicated process.

Israel must first of all prove its desire to live in peace by giving the land back to its owners. It must cease its inhumane violations and excesses against the inhabitants of the occupied territories. It must refrain from attempting to erase the character of Arab towns and Islamic holy shrines. In fact, we have many reasons to reject this so-called Middle East market. I wish to point out that it is not clear yet what the term Middle East means.

So how can we form an economic grouping in a region with no defined features, at least from the geographical point of view? According to our concept, we ought to establish an Arab grouping. We have the bonds of blood, religion, history, and a common future. The agreements and recommendations of the summit conference held under the aegis of the Arab League since 1957 approved the establishment of a Common Arab market. What remains is implementation, which is not being done due to lack of political will. You are aware of the pressure put on the Arab League to end the boycott [of Israel]. However, in its recent 101st session the Arab League reaffirmed its adherence to the boycott decisions as one of the best bargaining cards in the hands of the Arab negotiator. The Arab negotiator will not give up this bargaining chip under any pressure or at any price.

[Khalil] In view of what you said about the Arab League and your ambition to revive joint Arab cooperation agreements to face Western-Zionist schemes to redraw the region's map, where do you stand on the secretary general's call for reconciliation?

[Hasan] When that initiative saw the light in March last year, I met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. There was a notably genuine desire among Arab intellectuals and writers to get over the Gulf ordeal and welcome undertakings to patch up the schism in Arab relations. The people as well are eager to restore the unity of the nation's ranks. When it comes to states, only 13 out of 23 member states have consented to the initiative. Some states had reservations about it due to bilateral problems, although I am convinced that this is more reason for brothers to get together and discuss matters rather than wait. Just as Husayn said in an appeal to the nation's leaders, let us emerge from the dark tunnel.

[Khalil] Since we are talking about mending fences, how far have bilateral ties between Egypt and Jordan gone, particularly in view of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's expected visit to Jordan on 26 April?

[Hasan] The visit is in the context of the meetings of the Egyptian-Jordanian joint higher committee. We hope these meetings will contribute to restoring normalcy to bilateral ties between the two fraternal countries.

[Khalil] What about ties with the Gulf states?

[Hasan] We still believe that patience is our only hope for an opening up or, in other words, for dialogue and for avoiding hazards.

[Khalil] My last question is about the democratic experience and the distance you have covered so far. Did the recent acts of violence have an impact on that experience?

[Hasan] First of all, violence exists everywhere in the world, primarily in the states that claim to have fully democratic state institutions. Violence does not bother us in effect, it enhances our belief in the need to further consolidate our democratic practices. I admit, however, that our democratic experience is not fully mature.

Minister Comments on U.S. Agreement on al-'Aqabah

JN2804091094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Apr 94, pp 1, 5

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—After the U.S. announced its acceptance of a Jordanian proposal to ease the naval blockade against the port of al-'Aqabah, the Kingdom will await final agreement and implementation before renewing its full participation in the peace process, a senior Jordanian official said Wednesday [27 April].

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES that the kindgom is satisfied with the U.S. move, which he said, had "removed a major obstacle and has allowed the Kingdom to shift its position towards renewed participation in the peace process."

But he pointed out that the U.S.-Jordan agreement over the naval blockade in al'Aqabah was not "100 per cent complete" and that the Kingdom was awaiting final agreement and implementation before announcing its return to the Middle East peace negotiations.

At a joint conference that followed a meeting in London with His Majesty King Husayn, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced that "subject to fine tuning the U.S. accepted a Jordanian proposal on a new land-based system of verifying compliance with international sanctions against Iraq without the need to intercept ships at midsea.

The acceptance came after months of deliberations which prompted the King to link Jordan's return to the peace talks with Israel to an end to the sea-based inspections of all Jordan-bound vessels by a U.S.-led naval force which Washington calls the Multinational Interception [as published] Force (MIF).

Dr. al-'Anani said that the U.S.' positive response is an indication of the "unfolding realisation of Jordan's important role," another issue that Jordan tied to the renewal of Jordan's participation in the talks.

King Husayn had told representatives of Security Council member countries that he believed the pressure on Jordan with the al-'Aqabah siege was humiliting to

Jordan and indicated a lack of appreciation for Jordan's positive role in promoting peace in the region.

Dr. al-'Anani, who said that the problem with the U.S. could have been averted earlier, said that this latest move will contribute positively to the "credibility of U.S. policies" in the Kingdom.

Politicians and analysts interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES agreed that the Jordan-U.S. agreement has placed Jordan back into its traditionally important role in the Middle East peace process.

Jordan had stuck to its conditions out of total frustration with the U.S. on two occasion where Arabs and Israelis were meeting for multilateral negotiations, Jordan sent only low-level observers to attend the meetings and held back "active participation."

In the multilateral meeting on water, held for the first time in a Gulf state, Oman, Jordan balanced its need to underline that it was not going to play a spoiler role by boycotting the meeting with a reiteration to its ultimatum on al-'Aqabah. The Jordanian observer to that meeting managed to delay the issuing of recommendations at the end of that meeting for several hours before allowing the meeting to conclude for the sake of maintaining Amman's relations with Muscat.

Observers believe that having been awarded a dignified way out of what was threatening to escalate into an open confrontation with Washington, Jordan is now willing to take an even more active role in the negotiating process with Israel, especially that a problem that arose earlier this month between the two countries over the present of Hamas representatives in Jordan seemed to have been settled.

"We are now willing to sign agreements on all individual items on the Jordan-Israeli agenda and to participate in the multilateral talks on all fronts discussing all issues at one time in the hope that these negotiations will lead to a peace treaty," Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali told reporters this week, stressing that such a treaty cannot be reached any other way.

Sources Claim 90 Hamas Members, Supporters Arrested

JN2704092494 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p 1

["Exclusive report"]

[Text] Sources close to the Hamas Movement in Jordan have said that approximately 90 members and supporters of the movement in Jordan have been arrested and that some Muslim Brotherhood members, who support Hamas, or who consider themselves to be part of Hamas were also arrested.

The sources stated that these measures were taken after the passports of Muhammad Nazzal and Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas officials in Jordan, were confiscated even though their passports are valid for five years. The sources added that such an action is unconstitutional.

In a telephone conversation with AL-BILAD, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad refused to comment on the passport issue considering it an issue not worth discussing. On the issue of arrests, Hammad said: I have not heard about it, and I have no idea about what you are saying.

Sources Say Amman Hotel Fire 'Premeditated'

JN2304145094 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "As Amman Investigates the Forte Grand Fire, Baghdad Connection Not Ruled Out"]

[Text] Amman—AL-QABAS—Reliable Jordanian sources have stressed that the recent fire at the Forte Grand Hotel, formerly the Plaza Hotel, one of Amman's most luxurious hotels, was premeditated. The sources say competent Jordanian authorities are currently conducting large-scale investigations into the causes of the fire and the parties behind it.

The fire resulted in the death of an Italian tourist and the injury of many visitors, including Iraqi Major General Hisham 'Ata Hajjaj, who is in charge of many sports posts in Iraq.

Information available to the same sources says that in addition to his sports activities, Maj. Gen. Hisham 'Ata Hajjaj is the air traffic control director. He is referred to by the Iraqi media and press as staff major general, air traffic control director, without mentioning his name.

Chinese Parliamentary Delegation Meets With Officials

Holds Talks With Senate Speaker

JN2404173794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Excerpts] A Chinese parliamentary delegation led by Wang Zhaoguo, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC], today held parliamentary talks with Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi and a number of Senate members. The delegation also visited the Royal Jordanian Scientific Society.

The visit seeks to examine prospects of Jordanian-Chinese cooperation in various fields. Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi noted the importance of this visit because Jordan believes that China's role in and concern about achieving peace in the region is one of the most important bases on which we depend. This is especially so since China is one of the five permanent UN Security Council members. Therefore, it is directly concerned with implementing UN Security Council resolutions that deal with the Middle East issue.

Al-Lawzi called on the Chinese friends to exercise their real role based on the international legitimacy to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. He noted the firmness of Jordanian-Chinese political, cultural, and economic relations as a result of both countries' eagerness to develop and reinforce these relations.

The head of the Chinese delegation said that the Chinese leadership and people greatly appreciate His Majesty King Husayn's balanced stands on various international issues. [passage omitted]

The Chinese delegation arrived in Amman this morning on a four-day visit to Jordan. The delegation was received by a number of Senate members, the Parliament's secretary general, and the Chinese ambassador in Amman.

Received by Prime Minister

JN2404194794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Today, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at the Prime Ministry Wang Zhaoguo, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC], and his accompanying delegation. Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi attended the meeting.

Dr. al-Majali reviewed the development in Jordanian-Chinese relations, which both sides are seeking to develop in all fields. He stressed Jordan's continuous commitment to achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace which restores the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He said that Jordan appreciates China's stands on various Arab issues.

For his part, the CPPCC vice chairman stressed the importance of reinforcing Jordanian-Chinese relations. He also expressed his support for Jordan's commitment to peace.

Meets With House Speaker

JN2504144494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the House of Representatives, has received at Parliament Wang Zhaoguo, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC], and members of the accompanying delegation.

The Chinese delegation had previously held a series of contacts and meetings that are summed up in the following report by our correspondent:

During his meeting with CPPCC Vice Chairman Wang Zhaoguo and members of the accompanying delegation, House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri said that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, believes that real peace should be founded on bases that secure its continuation and comprehensiveness and recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and of all the peoples in the region.

Al-Masri stressed that Israel has not shown real interest in the peace process nor has it demonstrated a commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and a willingness to save the region from the whirlpool of conflict by ending the causes of this conflict.

Al-Masri said that the House of Representatives decided to send parliamentary delegations to a number of countries, including China, to explain the dimensions of the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah and the harm it is causing to the Jordanian people.

For his part, Zhaoguo said that the Chinese people highly appreciate Jordan's accomplishments under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn in all fields, especially in terms of entrenching a democratic regime inspired from Jordan's own characteristics and genuine Jordanian traditions.

Zhaoguo explained that the Middle East problem is one of the oldest and most complex international conflicts. He noted that China believes that this problem can only be solved through peaceful negotiations in order to reach a solution that secures the national rights of the Palestinian people—a peace based on the principles and related resolutions of international legitimacy.

Zhaoguo said he will convey to the Chinese Parliament and Government the suffering of the Jordanian people as a result of al-'Aqabah siege. He stressed that the Chinese people deeply sympathize with the Jordanian people, hoping that this problem will be solved soon. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Interviewed on Iraq, Israel

LD2604122194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0927 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Apr (KUNA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul said in an interview published today that his country is strong and able to provide security for its citizens and residents. "No one, whoever it might be, can weaken it," he said.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA' newspaper, Dallul said "There is an Arab country which attacked Lebanon, its security, its sovereignty, and its stability. Were we expected to stand with our hands tied over what happened?" He was referring to the recent assassination of an Iraqi opposition member Talib Suhayl al-Tamimi killed by members of the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut.

He added that his country has cut ties with the Iraqi regime because it chose Lebanon in particular as the site for the assassination.

"It is obvious that Iraq deems Lebanon to be weak and we want to prove to Iraq that Lebanon is a strong and capable country. No one, whoever it might be, can weaken it—not Iraq or any one else," he said.

"We willfully cut ties with Iraq," he added, stressing the Lebanese Government's great responsibility for the security of Lebanese citizens and residents in the country.

Lebanon cut diplomatic ties with Iraq last week after Baghdad refused to lift diplomatic immunity from the Iraqi diplomats suspected of being involved in assassinating al-Tamimi.

Dallul said Lebanon will continue to confront what he described as "the dirty attack" which Iraq carried out against it and to teach everyone a lesson that his country is not "a sphere for settling accounts or a ground for others to fight each other on."

"We reject all these vile methods. Ties have been cut and will remain cut," he said expressing surprise that the killers confessed their crime based on a central decision from Baghdad to their embassy employees in Lebanon.

On the aggravated situation in southern Lebanon as a result of Israeli threats on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival, Dallul said the threats were intended to heat up the negotiations so that they could remain "fiery." However, he ruled out an Israeli attack on his country as it would be "very costly."

Dallul rejected reports that Palestinians were (?singled out) and legally prosecuted, saying his country is going after those who committed crimes, be they Lebanese or otherwise.

"We are going after all those who commit crimes, whoever they might be, and not Palestinians in particular," he said.

Concerning the Lebanese army's raids on arm depots belonging to some groups and organizations and the confiscation of weapons, Dallul stressed that "no weapons, except legitimate weapons, will exist."

He indicated that several areas in the al-Biqa' and Beirut have been raided, but said that areas in southern Lebanon were excluded because Lebanese resistance is confronting the Israeli enemy and carrying out its national duty by doing so. He stressed the Lebanese Government's support for the resistance fighters.

On the government's media file, Dallul said that the ministerial committee assigned to drafting a law on the audio and visual media—of which he is a member—intends to prepare a draft law that is "advanced, civilized, and which guarantees the national interest."

Foreign Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Hostages

LD2604201594 Tehran IRNA in English 1933 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon, Homayun 'Alizadeh, met Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Beirut last night to formally discuss the case of the four Iranian hostages kidnapped by the Christian Phalangists in 1982.

The four, Charge D'affaires Mohsen Musavi, diplomat Ahmad Motevasellian, embassy worker Taqi Rastgar Moqaddam and photographer of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Kazem Akhawan, who were kidnapped on the Beirut-Tripoli road are the longest held hostages.

Sources related to the Zionist regime insisted that the Iranian nationals were killed at Phalangist Militia Chief Samir Ja'ja's headquarters.

Ja'ja' said he was not responsible for kidnapping of the Iranian diplomats.

Despite Iran's repeated requests the case of the four Iranian has remained unresolved.

Ja'ja' Questioned; Sources Cited on Other Cases

NC2704190294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Judge Munir Hunayn, the investigator into the assassination of Engineer Dani Sham'un and his family, this afternoon questioned Dr. Samir Ja'ja' and checked his testimony against those given by other people in custody. The judge also listened to a number of witnesses, but the judicial sources who reported this did not reveal any details.

Judge Hunayn and Judge Jozeph Furayhah, who is investigating the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church, this morning received in their offices at the

Justice Palace lawyers for a number of detainees and petitions from their families. The judges agreed to some of the requests.

According to the judicial sources, Chief Public Prosecutor Judge Munif 'Uwaydat asked that the treatment of Dr. Ja'ja' be improved. 'Uwaydat pointed out, however, that Dr. Ja'ja is not being treated badly and that Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah is taking care of this.

The sources said that the cases referred to the Judiciary Council are old files under investigation. Some of them are being examined by investigating judges and are automatically activated when new evidence appears. Other cases, including the assassination of Deputy Tony Franjiyah and his family, require the appointment of new investigating judges. The sources said the case involving the bombing of Minister Elie Hubayqah's car was dropped in accordance with the general amnesty.

Concerning the assassination of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the judicial sources said the case was referred to investigating Judge Walid Ghamrah and that there is nothing new. On the file of former President Rene Mu'awwad, the sources said that Judge Sa'id Mirza is the investigator into this file and that investigations have been continuing for three years.

Regarding the file of Major General Michel 'Awn, which includes his breach of state security and keeping state taxes and fees for himself, the judicial sources said the general amnesty law did not cover the financial part. They said that Judge Labib Zuwayn left the case about a year ago and that the security agencies are now appointing a judge to investigate this file. The sources said there is no request to extradite Michel 'Awn because such a request cannot be made before an arrest warrant is issued by the investigating judge. The case is awaiting the appointment of an investigating judge and an extradition request is not appropriate at present.

On the assassination of Colonel Khalil Kan'an, the sources said that it is within the jurisdiction of the military court. Concerning the assassination of Dr. Ilyas al-Zayik, Beirut investigating Judge 'Abdallah Bitar today began questioning a number of people being held in connection with the case. The chief public prosecutor accused one of the detainees, Rafiq Ghalib Sa'adah, and will do so with anyone else the investigation may prove is an accomplice or perpetrator.

We have just received word that Beirut investigating Judge 'Abdallah Bitar questioned the accused Rafiq Ghalib Sa'adah and issued a warrant for his arrest in connection with the murder of Dr. Ilyas al-Zayik in al-Ashrafiyah in 1990. The judge sent a judicial note to security authorities to conduct initial investigations to identify all perpetrators and accomplices.

Invitation to Cairo Multilateral Talks Received

NC2604121894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Lebanon was officially invited by the United States, Russia, and Egypt to take part in the Middle East multilateral talks on refugees scheduled to be held in Cairo on 10-12 May. The invitation was conveyed by the American, Russian, and Egyptian ambassadors to Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, today.

The Egyptian ambassador said after the meeting that Lebanon should always take part in the Middle East peace negotiations because Lebanon is a principal, important, and effective party in the peace process.

The Russian ambassador expressed the conviction that Lebanon will take part in the multilateral negotiations, noting that Lebanon is entitled to choose the stance it likes. The Russian envoy said it would be in Lebanon's interest to take part in these negotiations.

The U.S. ambassador said that Secretary of State Warren Christopher is unlikely to visit Lebanon, adding that the ongoing talks could achieve progress.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today received a written message from his Sudanese counterpart, Husayn Abu-Salih. The message was forwarded by the Sudanese ambassador to Lebanon. It contains the Sudanese Government's thanks to Minister Buwayz and the Lebanese Government for their support for Sudan during the Arab League Council's meetings in March, when Minister Buwayz backed a decision condemning plans to partition Sudan.

Hizballah, Other Parties Criticize Government

NC2604103494 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 15 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] The Lebanese Islamic and nationalist parties and forces have held an expanded meeting at Hizballah's Political Bureau premises to discuss developments in the Lebanese arena. The delegates discussed the political situation and public liberties resulting from the government's policy, which is aimed at repressing the honest voices and forces confronting the Zionist enemy and the U.S. schemes in the region.

Hizballah was represented at the meeting by the Political Bureau head al-Hajj Husayn al-Khalil, bureau member Abu-Sa'id al-Khansa, and deputies Muhammad Ra'd, Muhammad Funaysh, and Muhammad Yaghi.

The other parties were represented by Zahi al-Khatib for the Workers' League; Usamah Sa'd and Khalil al-Khalil for the Nasirite Popular Organization; Tawfiq Muhanna for the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—Higher Council; 'Ali al-Shaykh 'Ammar for the Islamic Group; Sa'dallah Mazra'ani for the Lebanese Communist Party; Mukhtar Haydar for the Communist Action Organization;

Hamad Haydar for the Popular Committees and Associations Grouping; Munir al- Sayyad for the Nasirite Organization; Husayn Hamdan for the Arab Socialist Action Party; and Hasan Shalhah for the Union Party.

After the meeting, the delegates issued the following statement:

Out of their concern for political freedom; in defense of the Resistance's nationalist media and the freedom of expression through appropriate methods; in rejection of the government's repressive policy toward public liberties—a policy demonstrated in the suspension of some papers and television stations; bearing in mind the perpetration of the 13 September massacre against citizens who reject the Gaza-Jericho plan; recalling the ban on broadcasting all audiovisual newscasts and political programs; and out of their concern for the principle of freedom in Lebanon, the Lebanese Islamic and nationalist forces and parties held an expanded meeting, following which they issued this statement:

First, the Islamic and nationalist forces and parties strongly believe that the government's recent decision is a clear threat against political life in Lebanon. The government's decision circumvents the nationalist media, which support the peace, unity, and coexistence march, and the honorable Resistance, which seeks to liberate the usurped territories. This decision also paves the way for the Western media to infuse their sectarian and seditious poison and to propagate the imperialist policy against the Arab and Islamic nation and its central issues.

Second, as part of a destructive and grave social, economic, and political crisis created by exhausting the citizen with taxes and strangling the country with debts, the government decided to silence nationalist media to prevent them from exposing this policy, which seeks to hold the country's future to ransom.

Third, the delegates believe that the government's decision is meant to reward the radios that spread sedition. Instead of closing the radios that violated the covenant of honor, the government equated them with the national media. This reveals the government's deceptive policy, lack of concern for the country's interests, and failure to curb the sedition that almost destroyed peace, stability, and national unity.

Fourth, The responsibility for the chaos that overwhelmed the media in the past should be shouldered by the government, which deliberately failed to issue a clear media law that would consolidate national unity and step up resistance of the Zionist enemy occupying our land.

Fifth, the delegates urge the honorable Chamber of Deputies to shoulder its historic responsibility under the current delicate circumstances to safeguard the freedom of expression stipulated in the National Accord. The delegates call on the Chamber, in its capacity as the legislative authority that must reflect the people's will and interests, to play its role in confronting the government's policy, which is strangling liberties.

Sixth, the media, whether audio, visual, or written, have one mission. So we urge the free Lebanese press to unify ranks in defense of information and political liberties in Lebanon and to undermine the government's acts of discrimination and division.

After the meeting, the delegates decided to form committees that will be entrusted with contacting press, trade union, parliamentary, and political functionaries to follow up on the move rejecting the government's unfair course.

SLA Positions Hit by Artillery Bombardment

NC2704095994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Our military correspondent has reported that the [South Lebanese Army's—SLA] positions of al-Hamra' and al-Bayyadah were subjected to artillery and rocket bombardment from the terrorists' positions in al-Mansuri, south of Tyre today. The bombardment caused no casualties among the positions' personnel, who returned the fire.

Israeli Air Raids, Shelling Reported

NC2704144894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Israeli military aircraft raided Tallat Mlita in Iqlim al-Tuffah twice at 1420 today. The Lebanese Army antiaircraft guns confronted the Israeli planes. After carrying out this act of aggression, the Israeli military aircraft continued to fly over the region. The Israeli positions in Sujud, al-Rayhan, and Tallat al-Ghuzlan exchanged artillery duels with the resistance positions facing them. A number of shells landed in al-'Ayshiyah.

Russian Ministers Pay Visits, Sign Agreements

Economic, Trade Talks Held

JN2604170394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] A meeting of the Syrian-Russian group working for economic, trade, and technical cooperation was held at the Central Bank of Syria today. Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi led the Syrian side to the meeting. Oleg Davydov, minister of foreign economic relations, led the Russian side.

Attending the meeting were Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, Muhammad al-Sharif, governor of the Central Bank of Syria, the assistant to the health minister, a number of officials at the ministries of economy and planning, and the Central Bank of Syria, and the Russian technical delegation.

The talks dealt with the economic, trade, technical, and scientific relations, and means of promoting them for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Soskovets Visits Power Station

JN2604163794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Oleg Soskovets, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, accompanied by Dr. Kamil al-Baba, minister of electricity, today visited the Tishrin thermal power station near Damascus.

On arrival at the station, he was received by Sayf 'Alaw, assistant to the electricity minister, the station's director, and the Russian chief expert.

Soskovets and his delegation toured the station's various sections and were briefed on the progress of the station's work.

At the end of his tour, Soskovets congratulated the Syrian people on the inauguration of this station, which is considered one of the vital and important projects Syria has carried out in cooperation with the Russian Government. He expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Syria to execute such joint projects. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Receives Soskovets

JN2604174994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, today received Oleg Soskovets, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, and the delegation accompanying him.

Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, and the Russian ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly Syrian and Russian armies, and the means of promoting them in the interest of the two friendly countries' interests.

Prime Minister Receives Russian Ministers

JN2704070994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Yesterday evening, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, and Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Davydov.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; and the Russian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks addressed bilateral relations and means of promoting them in all areas.

Al-Asad Receives Soskovets

JN2704175994 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

During the meeting, Soskovets conveyed a letter to the president from Russian President Boris Yeltsin dealing with bilateral cooperation and the Middle East peace process. Talks centered on some international issues and the peace process. They also touched on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them for the benefit of both countries.

Military Agreement Signed

JN2804094294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets yesterday afternoon. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

Soskovets relayed a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to his excellency the president on bilateral cooperation and the Middle East peace process.

The talks addressed some international issues and the peace process. They also touched on bilateral relations and prospects for promoting them in the interest of both countries.

Soskovets left Damascus last night following a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; several assistant ministers; and the Russian ambassador in Damascus.

Soskovets made a statement to the correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, expressing deep satisfaction with the outcome of his Damascus visit, and the talks he held with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials. He added: These talks provided an opportunity for a thorough discussion of the ways and means to promote and enhance bilateral ties.

Soskovets indicated that several agreements were signed yesterday to promote Syrian-Russian ties. He added that the means of expanding bilateral ties were also examined. He went on to say: The Russian and Syrian economies are bound by old and long-lasting ties in various areas, including military and technical cooperation, energy, trade, and the exchange of commodities and goods. It is our duty to promote and enhance these ties in the future.

A military agreement was signed yesterday at the conclusion of Soskovets visit to Damascus. Also signed were the minutes of meetings on the promotion of the bilateral economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation; signing for Syria was Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and for Russia, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Soskovets. The minutes call for the implementation of the agreements concluded in various areas, including energy, irrigation, and mineral resources among others.

The minutes also provide for fostering other aspects of bilateral cooperation in various economic areas, including trade exchange, the launching of projects in various sectors, the establishment of joint ventures, and other aspects of joint cooperation.

Foreign Minister Receives Russian President's Envoy

JN2604160694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Viktor Posuvalyuk, personal representative of the Russian Federation's president and director of the Middle East and North Africa Department.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with relations between Syria and Russia and the means of promoting them in all fields. The two sides also exchanged views and opinions on developments in the peace process and Russia's role in it, since it is one of two cosponsors of this process.

Russian Parliamentarian Meets With Assembly Speaker

JN2604160394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah today received Aleksandr Dzasokhov, member of the State Duma Council, and deputy chairman of the parliamentary group of the Russian Federation. People's Assembly member Hasan Sibahi attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the parliamentary relations between the People's Assembly and the Russian Federation Parliament, and the need to promote these relations on firm and practical bases in the interest of the two countries.

Dzasokhov gave a briefing on the Russian Parliament's efforts, particularly those of the parliamentary group, to promote relations with the Arab states.

Confers With Ba'th Party Official

JN2704150894 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA)—Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received today Aleksandr Dzasokhov, deputy chairman of the parliamentary group of the Russian Federation.

The comrade assistant regional secretary of the Ba'th Party and Dzasokhov reviewed the friendly relations between the two countries and ways of promoting them for the benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples.

Afghanistan

Deputy Defense Minister on Army, Military Successes

LD2704085894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Interview with Lieutenant General Mohammad Gol Aryubwal, deputy defense minister, by unidentified correspondent in Kabul; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Esteemed Lieutenant General Mohammad Gol Aryubwal, deputy defense minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, I thank you for receiving us for the interview. I would like to ask you—since we are now completing the second anniversary of the Islamic revolution—since the fall of the previous regime and the disintegration of its arme, the country has had a new national Islamic Army. Could you please give us information about the organization and ideological work in the Army?

[Aryubwal] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. As you said, the Army of Afghanistan disintegrated. It was an organized plan of the longstanding enemies of Afghanistan. For ages they planned to destroy the national treasures of Afghanistan—the national archive of Afghanistan, the museums, and to eliminate the Afghan institutions—to destroy the national Army of Afghanistan—and with the implementation of that plan Afghanistan was faced with a strange situation which is the cause of the sorrow of every Afghan, every Muslim, every patriot. Through their servants they took all Afghan treasures to their countries. In practice now there is nothing in Afghanistan.

But although Afghanistan was confronted with a civil war by those enemies of its freedom, the Islamic State of Afghanistan was able to establish such an army to at least defend the national honor of Afghanistan, that is to safeguard its national unity and national sovereignty. And despite the problems created for it by the enemies, the Afghan Army has been able to protect national sovereignty and national unity and to abort many of the enemies' conspiracies. As I said before despite the fact that the Army is faced with big problems—for a single moment the Afghan Army has not been allowed to be self-confident, to think about itself—yet, thanks God, a large number of patriotic and nationalist trained officers, from every class, every stratum, every profession came together and organized themselves. As a result of this organization, thus far several conspiracies, created especially by [word indistinct] enemies of Afghanistan about which the world knows, have been aborted by this Army, and God willing so far as possible it will defend the national honor of the country at any moment, day and night.

From the ideological point of view too the Islamic Army is progressing and attention has been paid to the ideological life of the Army. Courses have been set up and work continues. It is hoped that when the Afghan Army can rest for a while it is expected of it to [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Unfortunately since the victory of the Islamic revolution there had been fighting in various directions in Afghanistan. Recent incidents would have caused very grave consequences, but the mojahedin and officials of our Islamic Army were able to prevent those grave incidents. Please shed some light on the activities and the share of the officials and units of the Islamic Army and mojahedin in the dislodging of the recent incidents.

[Aryubwal] As I said before, the longstanding enemies of Afghanistan have not for a moment allowed the Afghan nation, Army, and state to dress Afghanistan's wounds so as to take care of its affairs and pay attention to its national unity and reconstruction. [Words indistinct] especially after the recent conspiracy this heroic, Muslim and patriotic Army, which cannot even be called an army compared with other armies, was able to abort a dangerous conspiracy, a coup d'etat. Not only did it abort the coup d'etat, but it also gained many victories, which are a cause of pride for this Army. Military experts can understand the fact that an army, which even cannot be called an army, was able to abort such a dangerous coup d'etat that was supported by many foreign powers, and to capture many areas from the enemies.

For example since the failed coup d'etat of 11 Jadi [1 January] this Army has cleared up bravely the area of the airport, where previously militia forces resided, and the areas of Qabelbai, Hudkhel, Banayi, Alokhel, Milli Bus, Microrayon Bridge, the area of Idgah mosque, the surroundings of Balahesar, Maiwand Wat, [east and south of Kabul] the surroundings of Bagh-e Babor, the surrounding of Dehmazang, the cultural area of Kabul, and many other areas in Kabul.

Outside Kabul many victories have been achieved. For instance, Parwan Province has been completely cleared of the enemies and many positions have been conquered. The enemy is in very small area of Kapisa Province, God willing, and in a short time that area will also be cleared [words indistinct]. In northern areas such as in Faryab Province many areas have been cleared of the militia. The area of Pol-e Khomri [in Baghlan] is completely cleared. Northern Salang, Khinjan, Doshi, Samangan Province, and the districts of Balkh Province have been conquered. In the near future we will hear about other conquests too. [passage omitted]

UN Delegation Concludes 3-Week Tour

LD2704101894 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, April 27, IRNA—U.N. secretary-general's special envoy to Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri will leave for Riyadh and Tehran on Friday, April 29, to exchange views with the officials of the two countries on latest developments in Afghanistan.

The office of the secretary-general made the announcement here Tuesday at the end of Mestiri's fourth visit to Afghanistan.

In its latest tour of Afghanistan, the U.N. delegation paid a visit to Qandahar and its nearby regions and met with the leaders of political parties and tribal chiefs, the announcement said. It added that the said Afghan leaders favored restoration of peace in their country and stressed that it required the establishment of a ceasefire, collecting the arms at the disposal of the people, and non-interference of foreigners in internal affairs of their country.

The delegation, in its 3-week stay in Afghanistan, has so far visited Kabul, Mazar-e Sharif, Herat, Qandahar, and Jalalabad.

'Outlaw' Mullah Reportedly Named Zabul Governor

BK2704123994 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Quetta, April 26 (APP)—The government of Afghanistan has nominated outlaw Mula Salam Rocketi the governor of Zabul district of Afghanistan, it is reliably learnt.

Mula Salam Rocketi, a regular member of the Tanzeeme Ittehad-e Eslami has been recommended by the party chief Prof Abdol Rasul Sayyaf for the covetous post.

Mula Rocketi is involved in a number of heinous crimes of murders, kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking and subversive activities and had been operating on the Pak-Afghan borders.

He has committed crimes well inside Pakistan territories also. He kidnapped several government officials, killed a lecturer and kidnapped three professors of the Degree College Pishin, kidnapped the Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, several employees of the Balochistan Development Authority and also kidnapped Chinese workers.

Mula Rocketi also attacked, shelled rockets and blasted several check posts manned by the para military forces. He is wanted by the Balochistan police in many heinous crimes and in this connection five members of the Rocketi's gang have been arrested by the police recently. Meanwhile, the government has decided to take severe action against Mula Salam Rocketi and his gang to eliminate their nefarious and criminal activities.

Khan Mohammad Chapai a trusted accomplice of Mula Rocketi is being proceeded against and five members of his gang have already been apprehended.

Mula Rocketi in collusion with Khan Mohammad Chapal let loose reign of terror in the bordering areas, particularly where they indulged in criminal activities.

India

Secret Talks With U.S. on Disarmament Denied

BK2704154894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] New Delhi has denied any secret talks with United States on disarmament issue. An official spokesman in a statement in New Delhi said that the talks between the two sides on the issue have been open and well-known. He said London has been chosen as the venue only for logistical reasons as it is convenient to both the sides. He said the Indian team of experts is led by the former Indian ambassador, Mr. N. Krishnan, as he has wide experience of multilateral diplomacy.

Meanwhile, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has asked the government to explain reported Indo-U.S. talks in London. The party spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said in New Delhi today that his party is of the view that a resolution should be passed by Parliament on NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], stating that the country will not compromise on the issue.

Spokesman Outlines Agenda for Rao's U.S. Visit

BK2704090494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The summit meeting between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the U.S. President, Mr. Clinton, will take place in Washington on the 19th of next month. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the overall program of the prime minister's visit to the United States is being worked out. The Indian Embassy in Washington is in touch with the U.S. State Department. The visit is in response to an invitation by the U.S. President. The two leaders are expected to exchange views on major international issues. They will also discuss measures to consolidate and strengthen bilateral relations.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has said that the United States wanted to clear misunderstandings with India and wants to establish sound relations. Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, he said the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao will visit USA to keep the dialogue open with that country as a part of maintaining cordial relations with it. He said a senior diplomat has gone to London [as heard] to hold discussions with the U.S. officials as the prime minister is to make a visit to that country. The prime minister's visit, Mr. Bhatia said, is to hold discussions at the highest level to narrow down differences between the two countries on the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], regional security, disarmament, and other issues.

Legislators Support Increased Defense Spending

BK2804014294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Members participating in the resumed discussion on the working of the Defense Ministry in the Rajya Sabha today called for increased allocation for defense research and modernization of the armed forces. They complimented the defense scientists for the breakthrough achieved in indigenous missile technology. Members asked the government not to succumb to any pressure and slow down the pace of self-reliance in this field.

Members from both sides welcomed the improved ties with China and some of them suggested that India should go in for joint defense ventures with China and Iran.

Neighboring Country Seen Involved in Bombay Blasts

BK2704020494 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] has found evidence that arms training was imparted in a neighboring country to some of the accused in last year's Bombay blasts. A CBI spokesman said that two people have been arrested in this connection. The bureau is said to have gathered more material against the prime accused in this case. It is alleged that the two arrested were sent abroad for training in handling explosives by another accused who is absconding. The CBI is reported to have made the breakthrough while checking the records of the regional passport office.

Pakistani Plans for Elections in Kashmir Viewed

BK2804040494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] India has described Islamabad's decision to hold elections in the northern areas of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as a cosmetic exercise intended to perpetuate illegal occupation. In response to a query by newsmen in New Delhi, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said Islamabad has denied democratic rights and violated the human rights of the people of the region, which was occupied by it through aggression four decades ago. The spokesman said the recurring violence including sectarian strifes speak of the political alienation, economic deprivation, and backwardness of the people in the region.

Islamabad Reports Attacks, 'Brutalities' in Kashmir

BK2604151594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir speak of continuing Indian brutalities during which another nine people have been martyred. Four youths rounded up during search operation were tortured to death in Shadipura. Thousands of people participated in their funeral. They protested against the Indian barbarity in humiliating and harassing innocent civilians. Another five people were shot dead in clashes at Srinagar, Shupian, and Bijbiara. Occupation forces also set ablaze several houses in Kathiapura and Yaripura. Over 50 youths are reported rounded up by Indian troops during crackdown in Srinagar. Mojahedin in retaliation attacked positions of Indian occupation forces and inflicted heavy casualties on them. Six soldiers were killed and several injured when mojahedin opened fire on them during siege of Rafiabad. Another two soldiers were killed in clashes with mojahedin in Kangan and Srinagar.

Seven Soldiers Reportedly Killed

BK2804015194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, seven Indian troops were killed and several seriously injured in a bloody clash with freedom fighters near Bijbiara on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway. A large contingent of Indian troops and paramilitary forces immediately left for Bijbiara to deal with any situation. A report says a youth was tortured to death in Pampur near Srinagar. Another youth under military custody was also martyred.

Meanwhile, in retaliatory action, freedom fighters attacked a number of paramilitary troops and injured them. According to Kashmir Media Service, 32 innocent youths were arrested today and taken to interrogation centers, where torture by the Indian Army is common.

Textiles Constitute 35 Percent of Exports

BK2804062694 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Textile exports constitute 35 percent of the country's total exports. The industry is now gearing itself to boosting exports still further.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] India's textile output has gone up from 25,045 million square meters in 1992-93 to 25,942 million square meters in 1993-94. This is excluding the production in the khadi, wool, and silk sectors. The steep rise in production is mainly attributed to an increase in output by the handloom and power loom sectors which employs 140 lakhs of people specially in the rural sector. The capital [words indistinct] sector contributes only 10 percent of the total production and employs just about 10 lakh people. According to the annual report of the Textiles Ministry, textile exports constitute as much as 35 percent of India's total exports. Textiles have, thus, emerged as one of the highest foreign exchange earner for the country crossing the 19,000 crore rupee mark during 1993-94—an increase of 34 percent over 1992-93. [end recording]

Government Approves German, U.S. Joint Ventures

BK2804050594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The government has approved setting up of a joint venture company with Germany in the field of engineering. It will have collaboration between the Mettalurgical and Engineering Consultants India Limited, MECON, and LPOAG [expansion unknown] of Germany. The new company will have an initial paid-up capital of 40 lakh rupees with the German company contributing 74 percent. The company will deal with designing and manufacturing of electrical, electronic automation, and electro mechanical equipment for industrial plants.

The union cabinet also approved another joint venture company by MECON with a U.S. computer software company. It will harness information technology for mettalurgical, chemical, and refining industries. It will have equity of two and a half crore rupees.

Iran

Velayati Comments on Bosnian Situation in New York

Views ICO, UN Efforts

LD2704111194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] As we informed you earlier in the bulletin, the first extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of member countries of the contact group of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] will convene in a few hours time in New York. The meeting is to discuss ways to deal with the present situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We draw your attention to an interview by our correspondent with Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who is in New York at present:

[Begin recording] [Velayati] On Wednesday morning, New York time, we plan to have a private, informal and consultative meeting with the foreign ministers of the contact group countries. Then we will participate in the ICO's official session. Thereafter, we will attend the UN Security Council General Assembly. We intend to discuss more profound and detailed legal and political issues with the Security Council. This is because the continuing complacency by the United Nations in defending peace, security, and human rights in Bosnia, and in Gorazde particularly, cannot be justified. On the basis of Article 51 of the UN Charter, the right of legitimate self-defense is one of the fundamental and indisputable rights of the people of Bosnia. Unfortunately, however, with the imposition of an arms embargo on Bosnia, which is based on UN Security Council Resolution 713, the right of self-defense has in effect been taken away by the United Nations from the people of Bosnia.

[Unidentified correspondent] In your opinion, to what extent will the decisions to be adopted at the session be effective in countering the Serbian aggression?

[Velayati] There is no doubt that diplomatic and international initiatives are effective in paving the ground for inception of a correct or, as the case may be, a wrong process at a global level. [sentence as heard] The elements who violated the rights of the Bosnian people during recent times, were earlier active at the diplomatic and international levels to prepare the ground for their actions. If we seek to defend the rights of the Bosnian people, we must pursue diplomatic and international efforts carefully and seriously, alongside our efforts to secure various types of aid and assistance to the Bosnian people. In this way, we will be able to present the world with a logical explanation for the endeavors that are currently being made by the Muslims of the world. [end recording]

Criticizes Security Council

LD2804083094 Tehran IRNA in English 0434 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] New York, April 28, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today in his address to the Security Council criticized the Council for failing to come to terms with "the real cause of the tragedy" in Bosnia. "We have never faced a civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has been a blatant aggression, which continues to be waged against a member of the United Nations," Velayati told the Council, adding that, it was the duty of the Council to see to it that aggressors were repelled and punished. He blasted the United Nations for overseeing the confiscation of arms from defenseless Muslims in places such as Srebrenica while allowing the Serbs who had surrounded the city to keep their heavy weapons.

Despite repeated declaration by the UN that it did not possess sufficient resources and man-power to defend the Bosnians, Velayati said, the UN failed to take advantage of the offer by some Muslim governments to send peace-keepers under the pretext that they were not neutral enough.

"Yet troops from a well-known supporter of the Serbs were deployed in a most critical area around Sarajevo," he added. Velayati also criticized the Security Council for shirking its responsibilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the pretext of having a "balanced approach" and said that such approaches were responsible for creating the impression that "a strong bias against Muslims is prevalent in the Security Council." The perception, he said, leads to frustration amongs the Muslims who perceive the Security Council as biased and insensitive towards the plight of the Muslims. "This frustration has obvious consequences. And the responsibility will be

borne by those who have so blatantly applied the double standards, and put their perceived strategic interests before the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent human beings," he added.

Speaker Nateq-Nuri Views Situation in Bosnia

Notes Readiness To Assist Muslims

LD2604135294 Tehran IRNA in English 1253 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Tuesday [26 April] praised the nation for its readiness to assist Bosnian Muslims and said the Islamic Republic of Iran was the first country to extend practical support to Bosnian Muslims.

Speaking to a group of workers gathered in front of the Majlis to announce readiness to defend Bosnian Muslims, Nateq-Nuri stated that Majlis deputies, in compliance with the supreme leader's call, are also prepared to give any assistance to the Bosnian Muslims.

He criticized the arrogant powers for their aid to the Serbs and the United Nations for its silence toward the crimes being committed by the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Nateq-Nuri expressed hope that the Bosnian Muslims who are resisting with empty hands against the armed-to-the-teeth aggressor Serbs will be victorious and will bring disgrace to the UN and to those who backed the aggressors.

Calls For End to Arms Embargo

LD2604181794 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Tuesday [26 April] called on parliament speakers of Muslim states to use every available channel to press the lifting of the United Nations embargo against aggressed Bosnia.

In a message to his counterparts in Muslim countries, the Hojjat ol-Eslam said that in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, imposition of arms embargo against Bosnia which is suffering from Serb aggression, should be regarded as violation of the republic's sovereignty.

Nateq-Nuri addressed himself to his counterparts in Islamic states, and emphasized that the only possibility to confront the ongoing genocide and aggression against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina is honouring the people's and the government's right of defending sovereignty and territorial integrity of the republic.

The message stressed that the issue of lifting the arms embargo should be taken into consideration in any peace talks of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) at the UN.

The speaker said that the unsuccessful experience of diplomatic negotiations to restore peace in Bosnia has practically led to weakening of the Muslims and strengthening of the Serb aggressors.

Corps Announces Readiness to Defend Bosnians

LD2604210894 Tehran IRNA in English 2051 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—The 27th "Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him] Rasulollah" Corps on Tuesday [26 April] announced its readiness within the framework of the government's policy, to march to the assistance of the defenceless people of Bosnia along with all facilities at its disposal.

A press release by the corps, which saw service in the imposed war (1980-88), supported the recent statement of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, in this regard.

In a separate statement, the Society of Imam Sadeq (AS) university graduates, also announced their readiness to join in the defence of aggressed Bosnia.

The students' basij (volunteers) of the university, supported the statement, and said Gorazde is a picture of mass oppression. The minarets of mosques in Bosnia have become thorns for the "savage society of the West", it added.

Army and IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corp] forces over the past few days denounced the gory massacre of Bosnians at the hands of the Serbs and supported the call for despatch of peace-keeping forces to the Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Students Rally in Support of Bosnian Muslims

LD2604172294 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—University staff and students in Nowshahr (Mazandaran) and Khorramabad (Lorestan) today staged rallies in support of the oppressed Bosnian Muslims and denounced the crimes of the Serb aggressors.

The demonstrators called for lifting of the United Nations arms embargo against the aggressed Muslim republic and announced their readiness to defend the hardpressed Bonsians.

In related news form Kashan, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and Basij (volunteer) forces issued a statement today underlining their readiness to march to the help of Gorazde Muslims.

Paper Urges Pilgrims To Raise Bosnia Issue in Hajj

LD2704081994 Tehran IRNA in English 0633 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—A Persian daily Wednesday [27 April] lauded the heroic resistance of Muslims in Gorazde and said such a withstanding heralds a bright prospect for Islam in the heart of Europe. The daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' urged Muslim nations and governments to feel responsible more than ever and assist the resisting Bosnian Muslims through any possible means.

The daily called on hajj pilgrims to raise the issue of the oppression of the Bosnian Muslims by the Serbs during the annual hajj rituals. It hailed the measures taken by certain Islamic countries, especially Iran, in recent days to pressure the UN and supporters of the Serbs in abating the Serbs crimes in Gorazde.

This is indicative of the fact that both Muslim nations and governments own potentials that, if used properly and on time, can prevent numerous crimes that the arrogant front is committing against Muslims in various parts of the world.

The editorial in conclusion called on hajj pilgrims to try to find suitable and practical ways for offering economic, political, military and psychological assistnce to the Bosnian Muslims.

Education Minister Comments on Impeachment

LD2704090994 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi who has been recently impeached by the Majlis (parliament), was quoted as saying that he would defend his stand whenever the motion is brought to the Majlis.

Interviewed by the daily 'Tehran Times', the minister referred to his impeachment by the Majlis and said that though he has been informed, no formal announcement has been made about the event in the Majlis. He did not go into further details.

The impeachment was called by a total of 29 Majlis deputies early this week and so far no details as to why he had been summoned have been made public.

Usually a minister is summoned to be formally questioned concerning an official action, policy or personal conduct, said the paper.

It also quoted the minister as saying that he had knowledge of some deputies working on a plan to withdraw the impeachment proceedings.

Nateq-Nuri Rejects Impeachment

LD2704105294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] During today's open session of the Islamic Majles an urgent draft bill on controlling commodity and service prices was submitted to the Majles. The Majles approved the urgency of this draft bill.

The introduction part of this draft bill says: The task of fixing prices is taken away from the Economic Council and is transferred to the Islamic Majles. The deputies, who have signed the only article of this draft bill, have demanded that every price change of commodities and services should be proposed and approved by the Islamic Majles before implementation. The draft bill has also proposed that all such price rises announced by the Economic Council or other authorities, which came into effect from the beginning of Farvardin this year [since 21 March], should be declared null and void.

During today's open session of the Islamic Majles, the speaker Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri announced: The call for impeachment of the education minister [Mohammad 'Ali Najafi], which was submitted to the Majles by 29 deputies, is contrary to Article 151 of the Majles internal regulations and is therefore turned down because the cases raised are general and a number of the signatories have retracted. The speaker of the Islamic Majles stressed: If the deputies wish to go ahead with the impeachment, they can resubmit the impeachment request by giving a detailed and precise account of the cases.

I would like to point out that the call for impeachment of the education minister has been signed and submitted to the Majles presidium. Among the instances of criticism raised are a drop in the level of academic progress of students, the granting of licences to managers of the Ministry to set up non-profit-making schools, ignoring the wishes of hezbollahi heads of schools, and squandering the national wealth.

Also during today's open session of the Majles, results of the votes cast to elect a number of deputies proposed in some notes of the country's budget bill for the year 1373 were announced. During this session, there was a debate on the first reading of a bill to establish rural development centers. After hearing the remarks made by a number of deputies for and against this bill, it was rejected without being approved.

Missile Maneuvers Begin in Strait of Hormuz

LD2604202894 Tehran IRNA in English 1931 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Bandar Abbas (Hormozgan), April 26, IRNA—The week-long "Thamen al-A'emmeh" missile maneuvers started in the strategic Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf waters Tuesday [26 April].

Surface to sea missile, warships and electronic units of the Armed Forces along with naval units of the Islamic Revolution Gaurd Corps (IRGC) are involved in the exercise, code-named after the 8th infallible imam of the Prophet's household, 'Ali Bin-Musa al-Redha whose birth anniversary the Muslim world celebrated this week (11 Dhu al-qa'dah 148 a.h.—765 a.d.).

Units participating in the exercise will stage marine warfare and launch attacks on hypothetical enemy targets and test new marine war tactics under the command of the Khatam al-Anbiya HQ.

Meanwhile the three repaired warships, Tiran, Khadang and Zobin, and also a repaired R-H [as received] helicopter—all four which had sustained heavy damages during the Iraqi imposed war (1980-88)—are taking part in the maneuvers.

Captain Rahimi who supervised the repairment of the damaged warships told IRNA in Bushehr today that the repairs have saved the country 15 million dollars.

Captain Nek-Payam also told IRNA that the R-H helicopter which was destroyed 70 percent by the enemy was repaired by Iranian experts at a cost of rls. [rials] 100 million.

According to the captain the helicopter will help sweep mines from the sea bed.

Commander Says Navy To Procure Third Submarine

LD2704195494 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] April 27, IRNA—Iran's naval fleet will be equipped with its third submarine within the next five months, commander of Iran's Naval Forces, Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, said here Wednesday [27 April].

Speaking at the joint flag hoisting ceremony of military and law enforcement forces, Shamkhani stated that the submarine will considerably beef up underwater defensive capability of the naval forces.

Canadian Envoy Apologizes for 'Inappropriate Conduct'

NC2804080194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Following inappropriate conduct by the Consular Section of the Canadian Embass, in Tehran toward Iranians, the Canadian ambassador in Iran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday. A protest was conveyed to him along with the necessary recommendations.

In reply, Donald P. Mcdonald, the Canadian ambassador in Tehran, expressed his regret, apologized for the situation, and promised that such conduct would be prevented.

Ruhani, Cuban Envoy Discuss Relations

LD2704160494 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Cuban Ambassador to Tehran Enrique Trujillo Rapallo in a meeting with Majlis Vice-Speaker Hojat ol-Eslam Hasan Ruhani here today described Iran-Cuba relations as excellent.

Emphasizing the significance of expanding political, economic and cultural relations between Tehran and Havana, he said that formation of parliamentary friendship groups will be an effective step to boost bilateral cooperation.

Ruhani said that Cuba has been friendly to Iran since the victory of the Islamic revolution and called for enhancement of mutual relations.

Referring to the plots of the world arrogance led by the U.S. against Third World countries, Ruhani said the U.S. was bent on confronting any country which opposed its hegemony or wanted to safeguard its independence.

Ruhani expressed the readiness of the Iranian parliament to set up parliamentary friendship groups between the two countries.

Fisheries Cooperation Agreement Signed With Ireland

LD2604162094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] On the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed today between Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh and Irelands' Defense and Marine Minister David Andrews, the two countries decided to cooperate in fishing industries, including caviar, prawn, and canned fish trade and the export of the said products to Ireland and other countries.

Granting study bursaries to Iranian students studying fishing industries, marine wild life, and maritime installations, as well as the decision to hold training workshops in Iran and Ireland were among the key aspects of the agreement reached between the two ministers.

MKO Radio Reportedly Hails Assassination Attempt

LD2704122994 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—The terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) has backed the aborted attempt on the life of the substitute Friday

prayer leader of Mashhad Hojjat ol-Eslam Aba'i Khorasani, on April 22. In a radio broadcast from Iraq, the terrorist grouplet described the failed assassination attempt as a popular move without mentioning its links with the assassin.

An armed assailant, identified by the Ministry of Information as 'Ali Huri, shot and wounded Hojjat ol-Eslam Khorasani on Friday. He was later arrested by worshippers and handed over to police. Huri has confessed to his link with the Iraq-based terrorist grouplet and the MKO has not denied the link.

Pakistan

President Receives Iraqi Speaker, Pledges Support

JN2704120794 Baghdad INA in English 0845 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Islamabad, Apr. 27, INA—Pakistani President Sardar Farooq Leghari conferred here on Tuesday [26 April] with Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih and the accompanying delegation.

During the audience, President Leghari extolled steadfastness showed by the Iraqi people in face of the blockade imposed since 1990 and the reconstruction drive to rebuild what has been destroyed by the U.S.-led aggressive war, saying "we well know that Iraqis have succeeded in rebuilding their country despite the boycott and the blockade and they proved their high capability in this regard, expressing regret over their plight".

President Leghari voiced his country's preparedness to render help to the Iraqi people for surmounting the critical circumstances and working for ending the blockade that calimed lives of thousands of innocents.

He also expressed Pakistan's willingness to cement bilateral ties in the political, economic and cultural fields, asserting desire of the Government of Pakistan to set foundation for solid and closer relations in future.

He urged Mr. Salih to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people for further progress and prosperity.

For his part, Mr. Salih explained in detail Iraq's relations with the Security Council and its implementation of the international resolutions and commitments, expressing hope that Pakistan would play its role in its capacity as a Security Council member for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq since August 1990.

It is to be recalled that Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto had met Mr. Salih and the accompanying delegation on Monday.

Bhutto Invites Sharif To Attend RSA Inauguration

BK2704082894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has invited the leader of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, to accompany her as an honorable member of the delegation to participate in the new government's inauguration ceremony in Pretoria next month. In a letter to the leader of the opposition, she said after nearly four decades of unremitting struggle against the pernicious system of apartheid, South Africa is on the threshold of a new era of freedom and equality. Following the first-ever general election, the first democratically elected President of South Africa will be sworn in on the 10th of next month. She said: Your presence at this historic event will be a befitting tribute to the struggle of the black majority of South Africa in achieving their just rights.

Spokesman Notes Concern at Indian Troops in Kashmir

BK2804012794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] In Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman has expressed concern over the report that India is once again inducting additional troops in occupied Kashmir. He said it is evident that while talking about dialogue, Indian authorities are intent to repress by force the legitimate struggle of Kashmiri people.

The spokesman expressed the hope that the Muslim ambassadors visiting Indian-held Kashmir would report an objective evaluation of the situation to their respective governments and ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general, so that the Muslim world would have better knowledge of the atrocities being perpetrated by the Indian forces in the held valley. The spokesman hoped that the ambassadors will be allowed free access to visit all parts of the held valley, including the sites of recent massacres in Sopor and Bijbiara, and to meet the Kashmiri leaders, including those under detention. However, the spokesman said according to our information, unfortunately, it appears that once again this visit will be a conducted tour.

Leghari Confers With Former Afghan President

BK2604150194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The former president of Afghanistan, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, called on the president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, he held wide-ranging discussions with the president. Speaking of prospects of peace in Afghanistan, President Leghari emphasized that this will have to be an indigenous process, as anything imposed from outside would never last. The president also expressed the hope that developed countries would not wait for complete peace to begin reconstruction work in Afghanistan. Prof. Mojaddedi thanked the president for his noble sentiments and affirmed that he would make every effort to bring to an end the fratricidal struggle in his country.

Military To Cooperate With Turkmenistan

BK2604152294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan and Turkmenistan have agreed to cooperate in defense training. Pakistan Air Force delegation led by Air Vice Marshal Farooq Usman Haider which visited Askhabad recently held extensive talks with defense officials of Turkmenistan. Pakistan has offered initial training for Turkmenistan pilots in Pakistan and also to help set up a pilot training academy in Turkmenistan. The delegation was shown an impressive air display of MiG-29's at (Merz) Air Base. The delegation also visited the historic mausoleum of (Sultan Sanghar) at (Merve).